OPULAR EEKLY 28 June-4 July 1984 Vol 3 No 26

BEST-SELLING MICRO WEEKLY

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News Desk

Tandy and GEC to carve up Dragon

DRAGON is to be split up between GEC and Tandy, foltowing the company's decision to call in the receiver four weeks ago.

GEC will continue to market Dragon's new Professional computer and will take over its manufacture and the development of Dragon's new up-market business micro. GEC is also going ahead with plans to acquire UK licence to produce an MSX standard home micro - to be launched at this year's Personal Computer World Show in the autumn.

Manufacture of the three GEC machines, which keep the Dragon name, will be moved to the South East.

Tandy then plans to take over support of the existing Dragon 36 and 64 machines. The company will also take over Dragon's range of software. Tandy will not however continue to manufacture the Dragon 32 and 64, commented Tandy's managing director. John Sayers, "We are definitely interested in the Dragon in terms of software support and service facilities to existing owners. But, although the Dragon and Tandy machines are very compatible, we are

continued on page 5

Sinclair md defends the QL

SINCLAIR is planning an ambitious software publishing programme for the QL — over 50 titles before the end of the

Among the companies in discussions with Sinclair -

> Sinclair's Nigel Searle



well as Psion are Quicksilva, Melbourne House, Ultimate and Picturesque. The company is also talking with a number of American software companies including Digital Research, Microsoft, Lotus, Software Arts and Ashton

Obviously this software isn't going to appear overnight - indeed the really good programs won't appear until early next year," said Sinclair managing director Nigel Searle. The first QLs went out only seven weeks ago and the machine's processor is new to many of the houses involved."

Because of Sinclair's current pricing policy on blank microdrive cartridges (£3 each to the continued on page 5 >



John Sayers of Tandy

00000 This Week 0000

Street Life David Kelly talks to Chris Greet of Toshiba on page 12 ● BBC & Electron Neil Barnes

demonstrates a multi-purpose facility program on page 25. Commodore 64 Simon Wallace with a

sophisticated word processor program. See page 32.
New Releases This week's selection includes Figuro 64

from Saxon Computing and Look Sharp from Mirrorsoft on page 52.

The Ultimate Choice....

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28 June-4 July 1984 Vol 3 No 26



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How to submit articles

Articles which are submitted for publication should not be more than 3,000 words long. The articles, and any accompanying programs, should be original. It is breaking the law of copyright to copy programs out of other magazines and submit them here — so please do not be tempted.

Accurac

Popular Computing Weekly cannot accept any responsibility for any errors in programs we publish, allhough we will always try our best to make sure programs work.

This Week to come Star Game 10 Ballooning on Dragon by Nicholas Edmunds Street Life 12 David Kelly taiks to Chris Greet Reviews 17 In-depth software analysis 21 User defined graphics by E Jackson Spectrum 21 Chemical elements and symbols **BBC & Electron** 25 Multi-purpose facility program by Neil Barnes The QL page 31 Parallel printer interface by Andy Pennell Commodore 64 32 Word processor by Simon Walface **Open Forum** 35 Four pages of your programs Microradio 37 Ray Berry's column Arcade Avenue 38 Tony Kendle's arcade check Adventure Tony Bridge's comer Peek & Poke 45 Your questions answered **New Releases** 52 Latest software programs This week Top 10 plus all this week's software Competitions Ziggurat, Puzzle, Hackers

Editorial

Choosing the processor chip for the machine is probably the most important decision a new micro manufacturer has to make. An already established chip must be chosen in order to stand any chance of attracting software support. And nothing kills a new micro faster than it lack of good software.

So far so good. But what happens when your first product has been in great success? What next? Look at what others have done. Apple, Sinclair, Acom and Commodore. They all launched the same computer again only in a different form. So we have the Apple II, the and IIc. The ZX80, ZX81 and Spectrum. The Atom, BBC and Electron. And the Pets, Vic20, C64 and now the Plus/4 and C16. Even where the machines are not directly software compatible the manufacturers have made sure they have taken their existing software providers with them by keeping the same processor.

Yet this approach only works for so long. Existing chips are eclipsed by new advances in semiconductor technology and competitors begin to catch up. Then comes the crunch. Companies have to risk throwing everything away, in the hope of producing a 'new generation' of more powerful machines.

Apple was the first III take the plunge. After the 6502 Apple II, it went out on III limb to produce the the Lisa using the more advanced 68000 chip. For two years Apple's position was in question. Now we have the Mac and everything is rosy again.

In January Sinclair jumped. It had no choice — a Spectrum remake would have let in its competitors. If the QL somehow fails to be a huge success then the QL Mark 2 will be. Sinclair has made its move.

Now look at Commodore — it is playing safe. The Plus/4 is, to all intents and purposes, a new C64. And, like its predecessor, it will be very successful. But hen what? Commodore will be deciding whether or not to jump in two year's time just when Sinclair will be gaining strength.

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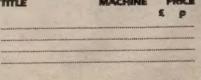
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QL defence

continued from page 1

software houses) initial software releases for the QL will not be cheap. "The houses we have so far signed contracts with are mostly writing packages which sell for around £40, so the price of the blank cartridge is less significant," said Searle.

"I wouldn't disagree that the current cartridge price is too high — the software houses all think so. But we have to balance supply and demand." At present Sinclair is producing over 100,000 cartridges a month but intends to increase production to over 40 million a year. Then Searle is confident the price will come down.

Also, Sinclair will soon announce the names of a number

Dragon carve-up

not interested in the Dragon

ted in acquiring Dragon's as-

sembly facility in Kenfig.

South Wales. Advisors from

Tandy UK's American parent

company and its French manu-

facturing plant have visited the

Welsh site and Tandy is belie-

ved to have made an offer for

the plant to the Dragon recei-

ver Touche Ross. Tandy

would not confirm the bid

though: "Our product mana-

ger in France has been to look

Tandy is, however, interes-

continued from page 1

32 and 64 per se."

of independent software duplication companies which will manufacture Microdrive software

The US version of the QL will go out with Microdrives although Nigel Searle did not completely rule out the possibility of fitting a disc drive. "Obviously we are not so arrogant a company that — if the QL were to be totally unsuccessful over there — we wouldn't scratch our heads and maybe put in a disk drive."

Searle is confident that the QL's troubles are now past: "In some respects we got off to a bad start with the QL — with its 'dongle' and production problems it was sometimes a little depressing. But while the press were jumping all over us we have been putting things right."

New disc drive under £100

THE sub-£100 disk drive has arrived.

Manufactured by Radofin, a new device called the Quickdisc will soon be available for the Spectrum and Aquarius machines, with a Commodore 64 version to follow.

"It has always seemed incongruous to produce expen-



sive disc drives for inexpensive machines," said Jackie Beaumont, spokeswoman for Radofin.

Topo slows down

ANDROBOT, the US robotics company has been forced to dramatically scale down production of its \$1,500 Topo personal robot and delay the introduction of its two other devices, Fred and Bob, because of financial difficulties.

"The company had been looking for more venture capital to finance production of the new robot, Fred," explained Graham Daubney, developments director of Androbot's UK distributor's, Prism.

"Now Sysorex International, who already had an investment in Androbot, has made a further investment of \$2m, and has taken a major shareholding in the company.

"Prior to the funding Androbot had decided to ship Topo on a much reduced scale. However, Prism still has a considerable stock of the devices, and we will certainly continue to provide Topo, on both rental and retail basis."

Fred was originally scheduled for the international market, but now Androbot is looking only to the US in January 1985, when it hopes to have produced 10,000-15,000

The drive is compatible with

Hitachi maxell 3 inch diskettes

and a twin unit will take two

king for distributors in the UK

and Europe to buy the rights

to the product, which should

be available in the autumn.

The company already manu-

factures the Aquarius compu-

ter, the Mattel Intellivision

and the Dragon cassette re-

Radofin are currently loo-

100K formatted discs.

units, Fred is a \$200 table-top 'robot' with turtle-like capabilities nicknamed a 'drawdroid' by Androbot.

Prism is now looking at the possibility of manufacturing



Androbot robots in this country. "Although we are considering the idea, any decision depends on the technology first being available in the US. When Fred has actually been produced, we can start to look at the feasibility of manufacturing here more closely," said Graham Daubney.

Flight games?

RICHARD Branson's Virgin Atlantic budget airline which got off to a flying start last week, is looking at the possibility of providing computer games as in-flight entertainment for passengers.

"It won't actually be possible to provide a full range of games until we can fit a flat-screen tv on the back of passengers' seats," said Virgin's Nick Alexander.

"At the moment we are negotiating with the companies which produce hand-held games to use these. Transatlantic flights can be very boring, and areade games, or even flight simulators would certainly help to pass the time."

No more A for Acorn

ACORN has formally announced its intention to discontinue sales of the model A BBC micro from September 1, 1984.

at the assembly plant and, while it may be an attractive idea, it is only a possibility," said John Sayers.

Amstrad on time AMSTRAD has joined Dra-

AMSTRAD has joined Dragon in that select band of micro manufacturers who have got their machines into the shops when they originally planned.

Rumbelows on the Edgware Road in London has been the first store to take delivery of the Amstrad micro — with some 800 machines in stock.

Software is here too. Eighteen titles to kick off with from Gem, Romik, Mikrogen, Bourne, Softspot, Temptation and Britannia. All the titles are £7.99 except Introduction to Basic which is £19.99.

More US games come to UK

CHEETAHSOFT is the latest company to bring American software over to this country.

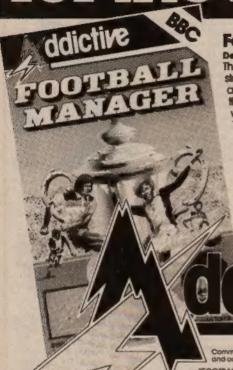
It has signed a deal with US software house Imagic to produce its games for the Spectrum.

"In terms of graphics and playability, Imagic's games are stunning," said Peter Hardingham, CheetahSoft's marketing director. "However, the games are only available on the Atari in the US and cost about £30. Our deal with Imagic allows us to market the programs at an average British price.

Two programs will initially be produced — Moon Sweeper and Dragon Fire, both arcade games. If they prove successful, CheetahSoft will release more games from Imagic's catalogue and also convert for Commodore 64.

The first two should be available in August, priced at

The No.1 Football Game Now available for the BBC model 'B'



Football Manager

Designed by Kevin Toms This outstanding game of skill and strategy is now widely available and you can join the many thousands of satisfied customers who have purchased the game. This is no five minute wonder you will be playing this game for hours over many weeks (we know – our customers tell us)).



Some of the features of the game:-

CLINS

- Kevin Toma * Matches in 3D graphics * Transfer market
- * Promotion and relegation * F.A. Cup matches
- * Injury problems * Full leggue tables
- * Four Divisions * Pick your own team for each match
 - * As many seasons as ou like
 - Managerial rating
 - * 7 skill levels
 - * Save game facility

Home Computing Westly 21:2-84

Comments about the game from press

"FOOTBALL MANAGER is the best game I have yet seen on the Spectrum and my personal favourite of all the games on any personal ravouried of an ine games on any micro. To the ordinary person it is on excellent view of whot can be done in the field of computer games... The crowning glary of this game in the short set pieces of match highlights which show little stick men running around a pitch, shooting, defending and soding a pitch, shooning, defending and soding, ... it is a compulsive game but people who cannot take game sessions of 9 hours at so, which happened on one happy Sunday, will be grateful to know that there is a 'save to tape' option. FOOTBALL MANAGER has everything it could ... The originator, Addictive Games, certainly deserve the name." Rating: 19/20 (Practical Computing – August 1983).

"When I first received this game I spent the best part of the weekend playing it. Since then I have returned to it more often than any other. The truly addictive quality of this game is the remarkable way it mitrors the real football manager's problems...
"[Personal Computer Games – Summer "(Pers

Versions coming soon for

Commodore 64 Dragon, Oric and Almos.

"I am writing to say what a great game it is. I have spent over 45 hours on it." (Mr. D. Feam - Gloucestershire.)



Action from the Spectrum version

Available from computer software stockists nationwide, including

John Menzies

Prices: BBC ModelB \$7-95 Spectrum 48K \$6-95 ZX8116K €5-95

Programm

Addictive Games IN B. 3D GRAPHICS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE ZX81 VERSION). 7A RICHMOND HILL BOURNEMOUTH BHZ AHE Overseas orders add \$150

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Another Spectrum bug

Whoooopie, I've found a new bug on the ZX Spectrum.

Try this . ANSWER=42:IF LET ANSWER IS FORTY THREE THEN PRINT "BUUUUUUG!"

Surprised? I was. In fact, you can have any old trash after the word Answer as long as it starts with a space, and the computer will still think it's the same variable. Try LET ANSWER BUG = ANSWER PLUS+12: PRINT ANSWER. I could go on and on about the rules for all this, but it's a lot more fun to discover them for yourself. Oh, and by the way, I haven't got a clue as to where or what the fault in the ROM is, so perhaps someone with Dr. Logan's ROM dissassembly could find it.

PS. Do I get a medal? Julian Skidmore 25 Crossall Road Trowell Nottinghamshire NG9 3PG

A distorted picture

I read your publication every week, and up to now, I assumed that the content of your magazine would be fairly

But I must admit that I now have my doubts. I have been in the Consumer Electronics business all my working life (a mere 16 years) and although not in the computer field as such (hi-fi being my particular part of the industry) I do feel that I know possibly a little more than some of your readers

I too returned from the CES last week, and I could not believe the rubbish that your David Kelly reported as fact regarding the show. I have been at CES regularly for the last 12 years, so I think I know possibly a little about the show. This year for the first time. I was exhibiting at the show with my U.S. principals. True we exhibited at the Conrad Hilton rather than McCormick Place but your report was so full of

inaccuracies of a general nature that it must give your readers a totally distorted picture of the industry.

First, the show was not besieged with 100,000 visitors for the start on June 3rd. Total attendance at the 4 days was between 91,000 and 92,000 people. Over 4 days, note. All trade. Secondly, does not Radio Shack count in your carveup of the computer market? Obviously known as Tandy in the UK, the range of Radio Shack computers is very highly respected in the USA and they do hold a large share of the market, if only by virtue of the fact that in some towns, they may be the only computer dealer around. I do not dispute your figure of 60% market penetration for Commodore. but I do think that you have ignored a large proportion of the market to arrive at a figure that suits the tone of your article.

The average wage of the Americans is \$44,000. Come on. Where did you get that figure? The average wage in America is closer to \$12,000. I can just see the lines outside the emigration department of the U.S. Embassy.

Why no mention of the fine effort made by British software houses? Good grief, I as a Britisher was complimented on the fine promotional idea of Virgin and Quicksilva in providing a double decker bus to take visitors from the hotels to

the exhibits. Finally, anti-Japanese feelings in America. You obviously do not understand the mentality of Madison Avenue. Comparative advertising in America is quite developed. For example, Pepsi-Cola compare their products with Coca-Cola. This does not mean that there is an anti-Coca-Cola feeling in America. It simply means that Pepsi are trying to draw customers away from the "market-leaders". The automobile manufacturers do the same. And as the consumer is buying Japanese compact cars, the comparison is made against Japanese imports. Hence the slogans "better than Japanese imports; fighting back against the Japanese." Oddly enough. as far as the trade is concerned in the USA (and I mean the

whole electronics trade) computers are a commodity to be sold. The country of origin does not matter. The marketing is all important, Commodore are really good at

I do have a feeling that the average age of your readers is quite young. Equally well I think that their intelligence would probably be above average. Please do not insult the intelligence of your readership. David Kelly's article could have been written without ever leaving the U.K.

B Blank Sota (UK) 41a The Grove London N3

The attendance at the end of the second day was 92,118. Being a trade show, by far the majority will have registered on the first day. Radio Shack's (Tandy's) share of the US market has fallen over the last year and the company did not bother to exhibit at CES. Also, no independently produced software for the Tandy machines was shown by any of the other exhibitors. A recent survey of potential home computer buyers published in Nation's Business showed a medium bousehold income of \$53,007. The average US wage is much lower than this but the lower income households are not computer buyers. The UK software was covered in Part 2 of the report. The point about the Japanese MSX companies is that micros and software are fields in which the US (and the UK) has high hopes of being able to compete.



"Don't just stand there do something"

Positively infuriating

read your magazine regularly and find it most informative and interesting, but at the same time positively infuriating. The number of spelling mistakes is, quite frankly, appalling and this week's (Vol 3, No14) crop of 'independants' has finally driven me to write a

Would you please de-bug your word processor and tell it that 'independant' is spelt independent.

H Fardesden I Manor Court Breaston Derby

Polupar Copmuting sets the stadnard the rest follow

Help and information

s it now seems improbable Athat Pete Woods will ever resurrect the former "Dragon Dungeon" business, I would like to ask any of your readers who may have been subscribers to the Dungeon's "Dragon's Teeth" magazine if they would be interested in an attempt to reform as a (strictly non-commercial) User Group.

I doubt that we would be able to attempt anything as comprehensive or elaborate as the original, but I think that it could serve a useful purpose, if only on a help and information exchange basis.

Even with Dragon Data's lousy marketing methods, and some of the worst software any machine was ever cursed with. the old D.32 still survives as a good general purpose machine (as anyone who ever used one rather than reviewed one can confirm!); the 64 is just as good, but no one seems to want to know, so it's up to us!

If anyone is interested in trying to get something started. I'll be pleased to hear from them. . . . all ideas, help, and suggestions welcome.

> Paul Grade 6 Navarino Road Worthing Sussex

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Ballooning

Land your balloon before Sam is copped for drunken driving in this game for Dragon 32 by Nicholas Edmunds

In this game you are the pilot of a balloon which you must land on a moving landing pad. This might seem straight forward enough, but your co-pilot Sam has been drinking and as the game progresses his driving gets worse.

So can you land your balloon before the cops cop Sam for drunken driving.

Using your right joystick you must guide your balloon down for a safe landing. It you overshoot, pressing the fire button drops your weight so you rise again, only to drop at a certain height again.

There are four levels to complete and after level 4 you start at level 1. The person who lands the quickest gets the high score which in printed on the screen along with

the present level and score.

Program notes

20-1909 Dimension arrays 129-169 Ask for instructions 179-230 Set up routines Play tune 240-260 Main game loop 286-530 540-670 Different levels 689-750 Crash 760-B00 Cleared screen 900-1060 Hi acore Print routine 1070-1120 1130-1310 Set up screen Graphics, scroll & letters 1320-1650 Data for letters & nums 1669-2019 2020-2360 Title screen 2379-2580 **Instructions**

Variables Objects

Strings: NS=HI-score name CHS=Letters & numbers AS=Initial print string

Numeric

N1&N2=ASC add numbers
Level=present level
S=Score
H=Hi-ecore
J=Joystick(®)
P=Fire button
X=X pos of balloon
X=Y pos of belloon
XS=X pos of pad
YS=Y pos of pad
YS=Y pos of pad
A=ASC code of AS

Graphics arrays: BA=Balloon

S=Pad C=Clouds T=Trees



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Setting the standards

David Kelly talks to Toshiba's Chris Greet, founder of the UK MSX Working Group

When the world's largest electronics companies club together in support of a particular design standard then everyone has it sit up and take notice.

So it is with home computers and MSX. MSX is intended by its Japanese supporters to become the world's first home computer design standard, and they will be putting a considerable effort into trying to achieve their goal. There will be no shortage of funds going into the plan. Just one of the eight companies involved — Toshim— had a turn-over last year of over £7,100m. Their combined net sales dwarf UK companies like Sinclair or Acorn. Yet the Japanese companies are not computer specialists and they have turned to the US company Microsoft for their MSX design.

Every MSX micro uses the same internal circuitry and, as a result, software and peripherals produced for one machine will run with another.

Obviously, any standard has its problems. Having to maintain software compatability across a range of machines means there is little scope for change or future development.

But a standard does offer any computer user one fundamental advantage. There is no longer the problem of having to rely on one company to produce software and peripherals — all the MSX companies will be in competition with each other and MSX owners will be free to pick and choose their peripherals and software from any of the MSX manufacturers.

The system first went on sale in Japan in October last year. Thirteen Japanese companies now hold MSX 'licences', and MSX machines account for around 30 per cent of Japanese computer sales.

In many cases the MSX companies may self more than one version of their machine. Toshiba, for example, selfs two models — a 16K and a 64K model — both available in a choice of colours — "violent red or bearable black" according to Chris Greet, Chris Greet, Toshiba's UK product manager, iii the man who set up the British MSX Working Group with the idea of bringing all the MSX manufacturers together to help co-ordinate the MSX launch in this country and encourage software development for the system.

"We want MSX to become in world standard in computers — like VHS in video," he says. Any company can manufacture an MSX machine providing it has an MSX licence. There is a licence fee and a commitment to meet the standard. There won't be an equivalent of ZX81, or for that matter Spectrum, cut-price MSX machines. There is a certain minimum specifi-

cation — joystick ports, Rom slot, cassette interfaces and so on which each MSX machine must have.

"The hardware of each machine has to be basically the same — otherwise MSX would not be standard — but the idea is that companies will offer some things outside and in addition to the spec. If things go the same way as in Japan, Sanyo will offer its MSX micro with a built-in light pen. Yamaha, ill it joins the UK MSX group, will sell its music keyboard and synthesiser.

"One of the rules of MSX in that any peripheral which carries the MSX logo will have to be compatible with all of the MSX machines. Anyone who buys a Toshiba disc unit, for example, can use it with any MSX machine.

"Toshiba, like the other Japanese electronics companies has been considering entering the home computer market for a number of years. MSX has given us that opportunity," says Chris. "We started to research the British market at the end of last year after MSX had been taunched in Japan and then we reassessed its potential again in January when we set up the British MSX Working Group."

Software is just as important to the success of a machine as the hardware. "Whereas we are expert at producing consumer electronics, we have no expertise of software at all. It was essential that we were able to get the established software machine working for us in the UK — that was the reason for setting up the MSX Working Group."

The main aim of the Working Group is to establish MSX as the home computer standard. The group is made up of members from all the companies who have signed an MSX licence for the UK. Currently there are eight members — including Toshiba, JVC, Sanyo, Sony, Fujitsu and Canon with a number #I other companies on the point of joining some of which are UK companies. "Since our hope is to establish MSX as the home computer standard for the UK, that tends to suggest that some existing manufacturers will join our camp.

"The biggest problem with any standard is obsolescence. There are lots of upward progressions in technology which can, and will, be taken," says Chris. "And software writing a big program for any manufacturer like Commodore must be wondering if it will still be possible to sell that program in two year's time. It it is written for MSX the program may not be the best thing since sinced bread in two year's time — but it will still be possible to sell that product."

Yet it is very hard to see how - with



such a rigid hardware standard as MSX—the design can be upgraded whilst maintaining compatibility. MSX's inventor Kay Nishi of Microsoft, Japan has suggested an eventual up-grade path to the 16-bit 8088/8086 tamily of microprocessors. In this case II is quite difficult to see how compatability can be maintained with software written for the present Z80 MSX standard. Chris, however, remained adamant: "MSX is not a one-day or one-year wonder — there is a future.

"I can't find anyone who doesn't gain by MSX. With continuing compatability it is obvious that software writers will concentrate more and produce more sophisticated programs, knowing that their programs will have long life. Also, the possibility of a world market must figure prominently in any author's mind." Chris is convinced that the quality of the software that is now being produced for MSX by British software houses will surprise a good many of MSX's critics.

"If you compare the specifications of MSX and the Spectrum then MSX with its TI video processor chip offering hardware sprites has the possibility of more sophisticated programming. Obviously, initially in September we will see copies of successful titles on the Spectrum and Commodore. But I would also expect to see a quickly growing number of entirely new titles which bring out the special facilities of the MSX machines.

So what is Toshiba planning for MSX? The company will launch a version of its HX-10 machine currently on sale in Japan. Only the 64K machine will come over—the 16K will be left back home. MSX will not be cheap. The 64K version will not be the most competitively priced micro on the market. Toshiba's machine will come in somewhere just under £300. A range of peripherals will be offered at launch to accompany the machine. It is in the area of peripherals that MSX will really come into its own—the music synthesisers, robots, hi-fi controllers, video recorder sub-tilling machines.

Toshiba will offer an MSX disc drive, a dot-matrix printer, joysticks, and probably a printer/plotter. To follow will be a music keyboard and III robot.

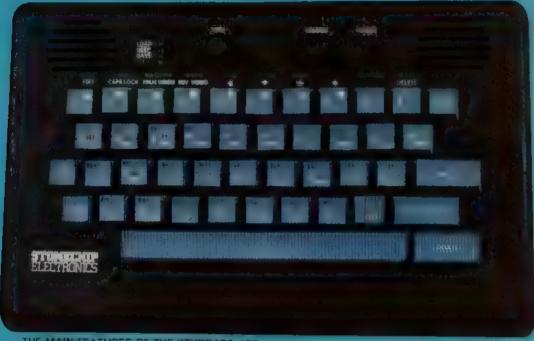
"Toshiba are currently market leaders with MSX in Japan — this in one of the reasons we are likely to be more advanced with our plans for MSX in the UK."

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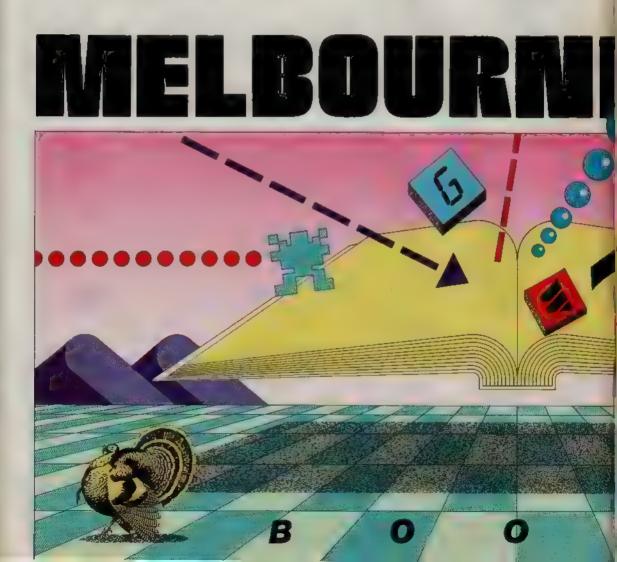
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The wobble factor

Despite its recent success as n televised sport the essence of darts is to feel the weight of each dart, to enjoy its glorious trajectory — and maybe to down the odd pint between rounds.

So why bother to make a micro version of the game?



One immediate answer is to make it available to the handicapped. The darts can be controlled by five keys or by joysticks and it's one of the few programs around to offer the option of using one or two joysticks. That arrangement should allow quite easily for adapted controls.

It is a two-player game. You are offered three variations: 501. Round the Board and Cricket. Brief instructions explain the intricacies of each. A good representation of a board drawn. You manoeuvre the dart to the right spot and fire, but is isn't that simple: each darl has a wobble factor that makes it very tricky to control. This "three pints down" effect may add realism for some and it is the making of the game.

Scoring is accurate and there is a rather nice burp noise when you hit metal or miss and a fanfare when you win. It gives you much of the game's fun, but none of the friendly atmosphere of your local.

Dave and Jan Watterson Program Darts Price £5.70 Micro BBC 32K (OS 1.2) Supplier MRM Software, 17 Cross Coates Road, Grimsby, S. Humberside DN34 4QH.

Aggresive dinosques

A ny attempt to classify In The Reginning under one of the standard computer games headings is doomed to failure — it contains elements of areade action, puzzles, computerised board games and educational software, all within the same program.

The game consists of ten levels depicting stages of the evolution of life on Earth. Starting from a single molecule you develop through various aquatic forms of life, through fish and reptiles, eventually to a primitive mammal. To prugress through the game you have to collect survival points by achieving various goals which you are set, for example designing a good fish! At each stage of the game you must avoid assorted perils like predatory trilobites, hostile climates or aggressive dinosaurs. Falling prey to any of these will lose you points. If your points total falls to zero you join the dodo and become extinct.

The game is certainly original with plenty of explanatory text and reasonable graphics. However, it is difficult to be enthusiastic about it. The action is rather slow (it is all in Basic) and not all that challenging, so that once you have completed all ten stages there is not much incentive to have another go.

Faster and more lively graphics would have improved it a lot.

Richard Corfield Program In the Beginning Price £6.90 Micro Commodore 64 Supplier Mosaic, John Wiley and Sons, Baffins Lane, Chichester, Sussex.



Daffy ducks

A couple of years ago, I spent much time, and money, playing an arcade game called Carnival. It was a fairly simple game, consisting of not much more than a fairground shooting gallery. But, for all its simplicity, it was extraordinarily addictive. There have been many attempts to emulate this arcade original, but even that great games machine, the Atari, has not been able to come up with a worthy likeness.

Finally Eclipse, writing for the Spectrum, have finally managed to translate the game to the home miero. The format is very easy to grasp: your little pistol is at screen bottom, and moves from left to right, firing at the various objects that move to and fro above. Each time one of these objects is hit, it disappears to the sound of a

Magic mushroom

Kermits of the world united. The intrepid survivors of Frogger are subjected to even more lethal attention in Mad Monty from Screenplay, a variation on the "caterpillar" arcade games.

The object is to steer a snake within a walled garden to gobble up frogs. The snake grows longer with each successful conquest but is fatally wounded either by hitting a garden wall or by crossing its own tail. To make things worse, each digested frog spawns a poisonous toadstool. A succulent mouse appears from time to time, as does the odd magic mushroom which counteracts toadstool poison.

The game has five speeds and is controlled by the use of the four arrow keys. In action, I found Level 2 to be easier to start on than Level 1 and that Level 5 really requires a joystick. All the frogs have to be eaten from the garden before progressing to another screen and this is exceedingly difficult.

The graphics and sound are crisp and the score panel is clearly displayed above the field of play. Unfortunately, the metallic clang. After clearing the screen of the ducks, rabbits and so on, a dancing Bear makes a foray across the screen, and you can shoot him for extra points — he won't disappear, but instead turn right around and give you another chance to zap him.

Here you will find all the same features as in the areade version — the daffy ducks that, if you ignore them for too long, will eventually swoop down and gobble up your precious bullets, and the revolving elay pipes. Also present is the bonus box, and the extra bullets, assured as extra points for knocking out the word B-O-N-11.5

U-S. And, amazingly for the Spectrum, there is even the same awful music which twiddles away while you play—absolutely essential to the full enjoyment of this program. Just try and tear yourself away from Carnival!

Tony Bridge Program Carnival Price £5.95 Micro Spectrum Supplier Eclipse Software, EMS (Holdings) 10 Marshalsea Road, London SET 1HL.

game is let down by minor irritations. The original program has apparently been 'topped and tailed' using some extremely crude Basic. A "hall of fame" facility has been added which is displayed after each 3-try set for a tedious ten



seconds or so and then two blocks of colour are taboriously built up in which to display the "continue" option. It doesn't affect the game itself, but I found that it spoilt the feel of pace and speed that an areade game needs.

Program Mad Monty Price £5.95 Micro Dragon 32 Supplier Screenplay, 134 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5.IU.

Blue loonies

I'n Salamander's Red Meanie game the player is an 'intergalactic Cheese-snuffler" trapped in a maze of corridors. The object is to eat up as many cheeses as possible, which are found in the corridors, and avoid being eater by Red Meanies who are also in the maze.

Some of the cheeses when eaten turn Red Meanies into harmless Blue Loonies which are edible, but each of these, when eaten, in replaced in the

maze by a Red Meanie. The Blue Loonies are suicidal, and seek to jump down the player's throat if not avoided in time.

The display in of a corridor maze and the forward movement can be made continuous by keeping the 'F' key depressed. This looks very effective, particularly with the perspective along a main corridor.

The Meanies are large and loom in a suitably menacing way particularly as they trundle towards you down the corridor. There is a warning sound when creatures are near and the maze retains its logical



content (four right turns brings you back to where you started). Occasionally, a creature will flit across the corridor apparently oblivious of Cheese-snufflers which adds to

The instruction leaflet is witty and the whole game is great fun - for a white.

Program Red Meanie Price £7.95 Micro Dragon 32 Supplier Salamander, 17 Norfolk Road, Brighton, Sussex.



User unfriendly

It sounds harsh to say that these two cassettes represent a wasted effort on behalf of their author, but after struggling to find some good points to them that's the inevitable conclusion to which I've been forced.

The programs are designed to help you create database programs of your own in Basic. This they indeed do - the problem is that the "creation" programs are very user unfriendly, even I the point of putting the first program you need on cassette 2 and not telling you! The 20 page manual is not helpful, and the final product, ie. your customised database program, is not very flexible or useful.

Specific grouses include the lack of a Verify facility, essential to any serious use of a database, the slow response to key presses after some prompts leaving you stabbing at the keys and likely to miss the next prompt altogether, and the primitive Break protection: press Break and the program hangs

Program generator I and Report Program Generator do work, but are outclassed by the established database programs already available

Simon Springett Program Program Generator and Report Program Generator. Price £9.95 Supplier Spectrum Visions, 1 Felgate Mews, Studland Street, London W6.

the limited free memory in the Spectrum when the Assembler and (if you have it) the companion Monitor are loaded.

This program loaded easily. seems bug free and did all it claimed. What's more, purchasers of the earlier version can upgrade simply by sending a mere £1.50 to Picturesque.

I don't have room to extoll all its virtues - I suggest you buy it and find out for youself. This is a good program, and deserves a place in every serious programmer's library.

Simon Springett Program Editor/Assembler -Version 2.1 Price £7.50 Micro Spectrum 48k Supplier Picturesque, 6 Corkscrew Hill,

Budding astronomers

The solar system presents you with a wide-ranging menu offering the opportunity to learn about the son, planets and the other assorted objects that make up and surround our Solar System.

Written with the novice astronomer in mind the program seems fairly comprehensive at a beginner's level), although 1 would have liked more than a passing reference to Halley's Comet, and some guidance about where to find it! After secing the relative sizes of the planets, a very passable demonstration of a mereorite flashing across the sky and mans of the more important constellations, you can try some tests which enable you to find out how much you have

The author is by no means an advanced programmer, but he gets the Spectrum to do all that in required using Sinclair Basic. The original cassette of the program was a little hard to load, but there is a Save to Microdrive option which al-

lows the recording of a working copy for day to day use.

BOSHUE

I'd definitely recommend this program as a useful present to help get a budding astronomer off the ground (if you see what I mean).

Simon Springett Program The Solar System Price £3.50 Micro 48k Spectrum Supplier Eaglesoft, 66 james Street. Scarborough. North Yorks.

Serious utility

Here is a serious utility pro-gram that is a joy to use and represents one of the (regrettably) all too few jewels of Spectrum programming.

An assembler is a program that will allow you to enter machine code mnemonics (the abbreviated instuctions to the processor at the heart of the computer), and will then automatically convert them into the correct numerical form. If, like me, you entered the world of machine code computing by hand assembling your programs you will find the Editor Assembler takes a lot of the

sweat out of machine code.

Version 2.1 of this program has been made possible and necessary by the availability of interface 1, the Microdrive and an increasing number of parallel interfaces for the Spectrum. One especially useful feature is that you can now save up to 95K of assembly language onto tape or Microdrive (saved in up to 10 sections), and then assemble these sections together at one time. This enables you to create long machine code programs (at least 15K), despite



West Wickham, Kent.

Bone search

C omputer games generally call on the player to take the part of the central character in the game, and these make up a pretty varied assortment. However, Where's My Bones from Interceptor Micros is certainly the first I have seen where you have to play the role of the ghost of a monk.

The monk, called Brother Jeffrey (or BJ for short), has been murdered by a Green Demon, who has scattered BJ's bones around in the Underworld. You have to guide BJ though an underground maze in search of his bones. Not surprisingly, the subterratean caverns are full of hazards like giant spiders, serpents, moving blocks and electrical

discharges. On reaching each set of bones, you gain points and also you replenish your shields, which are depleted each time you hit one of the underground creatures.

Although maze games are quite common, this one is challenging enough and different enough to make it interesting. The maze is not complicated, but it does require fine judgement and good timing to navigate through it successfully. Technically, the program is well up to the high standard now expected of games for the 64 with good, smooth graphics, and effective, if undramatic use of sound.

Richard Corfield Program Where's my Bones Price £7 Micro Commodore 64 Supplier Interceptor Micros, Lindon House, The Green, Tadley, Hants.

Work out the rules

Most games tell you the rules and then you play. In Enigma from Brainbox you play in order to work out the rules! It's a bit like playing Mastermind against a micro.

The game's name isn't a tribute to Elgar but to the war-time machine which produced almost unbreakable codes.

The idea is to choose cards displayed on the screen using (fair graphics) either a standard pack or an 'infinite pack'. rule being applied. The test is to see if you can predict the result every time. If you can, then try the next rule. There are five different rules to solve and once you've worked them all out return your cassette with £4 and Brainbox will send you a cassette with five more.

The snag is that you have to keep a tally of cards accepted and rejected on paper — an anathema to dedicated hackers. It ought to be possible for a running list of moves to be displayed — some chess programs manage it.

Enigma is different enoguh to intrigue. The first rule waseasy, the second harder and...well I haven't twigged



There are various options where either you or the computer choose cards and each time the micro tells you whether the choice is accepted or rejected. As the decisions mount up you have to try to guess the possible

the third one yet, but I will in a moment...

Dave and Jan Watterson Program Engima Price £5.95 Micro BBC B Supplier Brainbox Software Ltd., 20 Orange Street, London WCZH 7ED.

Spritely characters

This program offers the Chance to fill a gap in the Spectrum's screen display facilities lamented especially by games writers, namely the absence of Sprites. Sprites are characters that can be easily moved around the screen, passing through other objects—and indeed one another.

Spectrum Sprites gives you the opportunity to set up eight sprites, each of which is contained in a 16°16 pixel square, ie four times the area of a standard character. With the program cassette you get a tiny booklet with simple instructions for setting up and using the sprites. These are straightforward, and it proved easy to design a few shapes to use in a simple test routine.

Actually using the sprites is not so easy: to display or erase each sprite requires four pokes, together with a call to a short muchine code routine (saved automatically from the program tape when you save your shapes).

Dedicated games writers will find this program a useful help

to have around, but I felt the program could have given much more very easily. More than eight characters, for example, or a collision detection system that would indicate which two sprites had collided



rather than just that a collision had occurred. Perhaps a little overpriced at £7.95, but worth having nevertheless if you are writing your own arcade type games and finding the going difficult.

Simon Springelt Program Spectrum Sprites Price £7.95 Micro Spectrum Supplier ISP Marketing. Crown House, 386 High Street, Godalming, Surrey.

Mission impossible

The impression I have always had of Interceptor is one of a company which sells copies of best-selling games, notably Manic Miner (with their China Miner). This game for the Spectrum from them has yet to convinee me of their originality. That said, though, this adventure looks set to take me some time to solve—and I think I'll be kept fairly busy, and happy, most of the way.

You start off by being in a spaceship when you hear a distress call — your mission being to investigate, you head for the planet. Descriptions are short, almost to the point of being boring (the yellow room in just one example). But there are a few graphic focations to brighten things up a bit. This brighten things up a bit. This prings out one good feature — after you have seen in graphic

once, you are not shown it again when you return to the same place unless you ask for it; this saves a lot of time and frustration.

As in the best adventures, what you are supposed to do is very unclear, so I just wander around trying to work out some sort of map, and collecting objects. Apart from the prose, or lack thereof, the game reminds me somewhat of the universally acclaimed adventures from Level 9.

Like many adventures there are some irritating anomalies. For example, on entering the Armoury, you cannot then Examine the armoury—the computer tells you it does not understand Armoury, this obvious nonsense should be tweaked out of adventures by now.

David Lester

Program Message from Andromeda Price £5.50 Micro Spectrum Suppliers Interceptor Micros, Lindon House, The Green, Tadley, Hants.

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NATIONAL These treatment are told according to CONCASE WALLETS turne of trade and conditions of sale, copies of which are available on research

Art for art's sake

E A Jackson, produces graphics using P mode 3 on the Dragon 3.2

When using Pmode 3, the Dragon 32 has a 4-colour graphic capability which ill probably superior to most of the current range of 8-bit micros. Yet, we seldom see programs which exploit this capability. Draw and Paint are powerful commands, but the effect is rather like painting with a broad brush. Often, what we require is a way of bringing out the fine detail.

Fortunately, the graphic pages are memory mapped and to obtain fine detail we can Poke graphic characters, direct to the appropriate area of screen Ram. We know that in the low resolution mode, each character produces a shape 8 pixels wide and 12 pixels deep and that 512 characters would fill the screen. In Pmode 3, resolution is 12 times greater and to fill the screen we would need to poke a massive 6144 separate characters. However, we are not looking to fill the whole screen. For our purpose it is sufficient to create small areas of fine detail.

In the high resolution mode, the first page of screen Ram normally starts at memory location 1536. However, if you have Disk Drives fitted, you will find that this location has been moved to accomodate the Disk Operating System and the beginning of screen Ram is now III location 3072.

It takes 32 bytes of memory to store the information necessary to control one line of the screen display. In *Pmode* 3, each byte controls an area 8 pixels wide and 1 pixel deep (8 × 32 = 256). The single byte at location 1536, therefore, controls the screen display at positions (0.0) — (7,0). If we consider this to be four separate areas, each 2 pixels wide and 1 pixel deep, we can build up a character shape, using any ■ four colours in each position.

Each memory location holds a value between 0 and 255 and this value determines which colour appears in each position. Values between III and 255 are expressed in binary as a combination of eight zeros or ones and if again, we consider this combination of digits to represent 4 separate groups of two, we can see how the colours are controlled. For each group of two binary digits, there are four possible combinations to match the four possible screen colours.

In Pmode 3, the most useful colour combinations are green, yellow, blue and red and for our purposes, we can translate the colours to the following binary equivalents:-

Green = 00, yellow = 01, blue = 10, red

If you are alarmed at the thought of having to handle a multitude of binary conversions, the following table will reduce the task to the simple addition of four figures. If we Poke location 1536 with 255, (equivalent to 192+48+12+3), the high resolution screen will display a red line, II pixels long colours, if you change your mind later, you will have to re-calculate the values to be Poke d.

Once the values have been calculated, it is a simple matter to set up a series of *Data* statements to *Poles* the values direct to the appropriate area of screen *Ram*. If you are not convinced of the value of this method of

Poston	2	Position	Ž.	Position	3	Position /		-
Gheen	0	Green	0	Green	0	Green	0	
Yellow	64	Yellow	16	Yellow	4	Yellow	1	
Blue	128	Blue	32	Blue	6	Bkee	2.	
Reg	192	Red	48	Red	12	Red	3	
				40.0	. 7			

and 1 pixel deep, at position (0,0) — (7,0). If we were to *Poke* location 1537, with the same value, the line would be displayed at position (8,0) — (15,0). To produce a line immediately below the first position, we would need to *Poke* a character to location 1568 (1536+32).

Working with a piece of squared paper and a set of four coloured pencils, we can create very detailed graphic characters and if required, use *Get* and *Put* to move them cound the screen. The point to bear in mind in that each block of colour must be 2 pixels wide and 1 pixel deep.

Before you start to design your graphic character, you have first to decide on the background colour. Normally, green provides the best contrast for the remaining

creating User-Defined Graphics, enter the example program to see what can lad achieved with just a little planning.

Program notes

To increase the word fist change variable J2 in line 110 and add extra words in Data statements from line 1030.

80- 180 Initialisation asquence 170- 390 Main toop. 400- 420 Cisplay wrong guesses. 430- 440 Display correct answer. 450- 470 Display CORRECT message. 480- 510 Update scoreboard. 520- 540 Display fresh screen. 550- 650 Set-up Inibal display. 680- 690 Routine to draw text. 700- 780 Data for text. 700- 780 Set-up screen graphics. 950- 980 Routine to control hanging. 990-1060 Display hanging sequence. 1070-1100 Data for User-defined graphics.

```
10 REM ****************
20 PEM HIGH RESOLUTION GRAPHICS
         FOR THE DRAGON 32
40 REM
50 REM
          BY E.A. JACKSON
在图 REM 本共享专业共享共享并未未来的共享共享专业企业的主要
70 DIM A(152) , Z(32)
86 FOR B=1T0153: READ A(B): NEXT B
90 PMODE 3.1:PCLS1:SCREEN1.0
95 READ A
100 FOR B=1T051:C=1536+(9*32):POKE C,A(B):POKEC+
1,A(8+51):POKE C+2,A(8+102):NEXT B
110 GET (0,0)-(23,51),Z,G
120 PCLS1:PUT (110,70) - (133,121), Z, PSET
130 GOTO 130
140 DATA 0,0,3,15,13,13,13,5,5,1,0,0,2,10,41,170
,169,170,165,170,165,170,165,170,165,170,165,170
,90,95,31,15,15,15,15,15,15,15,15,15,15,15,15
,15,15,15,1,15,63,60
150 DATA 48,252,255,255,221,85,17,85,85,85,116,8
4,154,170,85,170,85,170,85,170,85,170,85,170,85,
170,85,170,170,255,255,255,255,255,255,207,207,2
07,207,207,207,207,207,207,207,207,207,69,207,20
160 DATA 0,0,0,192,192,192,192,64,64,0,0,0,0,128
,140,168,168,168,104,168,104,168,104,168,104,168
,104,168,148,212,208,192,192,192,192,192,192
,192,192,192,192,192,192,192,192,192,0,192,240,2
CHECKSUM=18828
```

element of truth

Guy Fullalove presents a chemistry program to identify elements and their symbols

his program has been written for a 16K or 48K ZX Spectrum with a microdrive. It can be used either as a database for reference or as a test for revision purposes.

To enter the program first enter listing one, which is the source file. This will create a file on microdrive one called "data". As it starts with a CHR\$ O, it will be invisible to a Cat command (chapter 6, page 27).

Now type New and enter listing two; this is the main program. When you have entered it type Run 9000. This will Save and Verify the program.

Finally, type New followed by LOAD "m":1:"Elements" and the program will Load and Run.

Program Notes I Lines 5 - 120 Print up the menu and take your choice n

1000 - 1090 Work out the name of the element from the symbol

1190 - 1180 Print up the information from the cartridge 2000 - 2080 Work out the symbol of the element from the merce

3000 - 3130 Create the test 3135 - 3210 Asia questions on symbols

4040 - 4120 Asks questions on names 9000 - 9020 Saves and Verifies the program on

microdrive one

Verlabb

25 General response variable Element name n\$ Element symbol 15 Relative Atomic Mass ram: Level of difficulty FOR - NEXT variable

```
#18 - Please wait"

1000 FOR n=1 TO 10

1005 UPEN #4; "#";1) CHR# 0+"data"

1100 LET #=1NT (RND#2) +1

1110 FOR #=1 TO #

120 INPUT #4; na(n); ## (n); ram

1100 MENT #: CLOSE #4; NENT n: C
  3133
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     3133 IF be="E" OR be="e" THEN GO
TO 4020
3135 FOR n=1 TO 10
3140 INPUT "Which element has th
E symbol "; (SE(n)); " ?") LIME EF
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         3140 INPUT "Ubich element bas the symbol "(Sein)): "?" LIME evant bas the symbol "(Sein)): "?" LIME evant bas the symbol "(Sein) "(To 15) and (n) Then LET score score + 10: "not only and the symbol "(AT 11.3; sin), "= "(nat was correct") AT 11.3; sin), "= "(nat was correct") "AT 11.3; and the symbol "(Sin) "(AT 11.3; sin), "= "(nat was worth) "(AT 11.3; sin), "(AT 11.3; sin) (AT 11.4; "(AT 11.3; "(AT 11.4; "(AT 11.
SO PRINT 'TAB 9; "Choose option"

"OO LET as INKEYS

100 IF as ("1" OR as) "3" THEN GO

TO 90

110 GO SUB VAL as 1000

120 RUN 20 PRINT TAB 9; "Symbols"

1210 IMPUT "IMPUT the symbol";

LINE as

1215 PRINT AT 10,1; "Loading in d

51a - Please wait"

1020 DPEN #4; "0"; 1; CHRS 0+"data"

1020 FOR h=1 TO 104

1040 INPUT #4; 10,5; 5; fam

1070 PRINT "There is no such s

1070 PRINT "Name of element: "; n
         1110 PRINT "Name of element: "; o
           1120 PRINT "Symbol
           1130 PRINT ""R.A.M.
       1140 PRINT ''TAB 5; "Press any k
ey to continue" "THEM RETURN
1150 IF INKEYS; "" THEM RETURN
1150 GO TO 1150
2000 CLS: PRINT TAB 9; "Elements
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       4108 PRINT '"Dell done" PRO Sco

12160 PRINT 'TAB 5;"Press any Ke

4110 PRINT 'TAB 5;"Press any Ke

4120 RETURN

4120 RETURN

9030 CLEAR

9010 SAVE *""";1;"Elements" LINE

18

3020 VERIFY *"";1;"Elements"
       Raio INPUT "Input the name "; LI

NE as PRINT RT 10,1; "Loading in d

ata - Please wait"

2020 OPEN 84; "m"; 1; CHRs 0+"data"

2020 OPEN 84; "m"; 1; CHRs 0+"data"

2030 FGR h=1 TO 164

2040 INPUT 84; ns; ss, fam

2050 IF as=n# THEN CLOSE 84: GO

TO 1100
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ZE VERIFY ***"; 1; "E(ements"

RENN blements data

OPEN **4; "#; 1; CHR$ O+"data"

FOR n*4; "#; 1; CHR$ O+"data"

FOR n*4; "#; 1; CHR$

PRINT #4; #* b$ 'cab

PRINT #5; #* cab

PRINT #6; #* cab

                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          2050 IF asens THEN CLUSE #4: GO
TO 1000
2060 NEXT B: CLOSE #4
2070 PRINT ""There is no such e
tement as" as
2000 GD TO 1140
3000 CLS : PRINT TAB 14; "TEST"; T
AB 10; "ases"
3010 DIM bs(1)
3020 INPUT "A test on elements o
r symbols ? "; LINE bs
3020 IF bs()"E" AND bs()"R" AND
bs()"3" AND bs()"S" THEN GO TO 3
320
3040 INPUT "LEVEL OF difficulty
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       320
3040 INPUT "Level of difficulty
(1 TO 8) ";
(1 TO 
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            190
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            200
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Graphically filed

Neil Barnes presents a multi-purpose facility program for BBC with 1.2 operating system

This is a sophisticated File program designed to make use of Mode 7 BBC graphics. It has many of the features found in commercial business filling systems.

The main intention was to make the program as user Iriendly and error trapped as possible. For example, if you try to print a file that does not exist you will be returned

to the main menu. Files can be sorted into alphabetical order and printed out on any parallel printer. Printer dumps can be alphabetical or numerical.

The program will keep you informed of the amount of space left for new files and verify your entries if required.

The search routine will discover any

sequence of letters you choose even if it is embedded in a longer string, eg. Fred will be found from John Fred Smith and so on. There are View options which enable you to see part or all of the completed file. The program is well illustrated by Rem statements so the general structure of the program should be fairly clear.

The main sections of the program are achieved by use of Procedures - a complete list of these and their functions will follow in part two next week.



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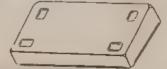
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The QL philosophy

Andy Pennell takes a look at the QL Parallel Printer Interface from Miracle Systems

As the QL regrettably only has a serial hiterface for printers, the release of a parallel interface from Miracle Systems would seem to be very useful. It consists of small white box with a cable that plugs into Serial Port 1 on the QL, and a Centronics type plug for the printer. As it is a hardware-only device, it requires no software and should, in theory, be 100% compatible with any Centronics printer.

The supplied instructions are brief, not even mentioning the device name that should be used. To use from BASIC, a stream must first be opened, with something like open#3, ser 1. For printout or listings the normal commands are used, but with #3 inserted; eg. Print #3. The first interface supplied for review, a production device, didn't work at all well. When producing listings, characters were missed out, and screen dumps were hopeless. After contacting Miracle Systems, a 'design change' was made, and a revised interface supplied.

This was a great improvement, and worked very successfully. It handled *Print*, *List*, print outs from *Quill*, and even the

high-res screen dumps from Easel. Even at 9600 baud printouts from the serial connection to the printer interface makes things slow, but that is not Miracle's fault. A generous three metres of cable is included with the device.

This interface seems to follow the QL philosophy, by being first advertised, then

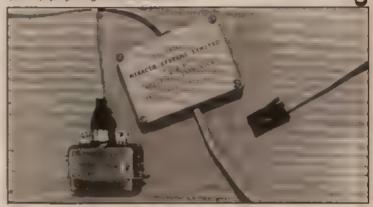
manufactured, released in a non-working version, then revised due to customer response.

Now it is working, though, it is very neat, requires no power supply, is easy to use, and is reasonably priced. Anyone else who first received is faulty interface can apparently now get a rapid replacement.

Device: QSP Parallel Printer Interface

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An edited version

Simon Wallace demonstrates a cassette-based word processor

Anyone who has a Commodore 64 and a Printer can use this cassette-tape based word processor. The system is no toy—it has all the basic facilities required for word processing. It was designed to work efficiently, but to be comparatively easy to use and to understand. The following paragaphs examine the requirements of a word processing system, the design criteria employed, the implementation of the system and how to use the PCW-C64-WP.

Word Processing

Any word processor is in reality a microcomputer, often with less technical capability than your Commodore 64. It runs a single program to store data typed on the keyboard and print it out on request. The program will be enormously complex to deal with the dozens of specialised requirements of word processing. The microcomputer will often have special hardware features such as a high-quality printer, specially-labelled keys and a TV screen the same "A4" shape as a normal business letter.

The most important function of a word processor is text editing. The user must be able to juggle the words in any manner desired. The method employed is known as a screen editor. With this any item shown on the screen can bit changed. Extra text can be inserted or uswanted text deleted. This ii in contrast to the line editor such as the Basic program editor of the Commodore 64. In a line editor, text is added, deleted or changed a line at a time.

The standard paper is about 80 characters wide, but there is often a need to produce wider documents. Some editors can scroll sideways so that a longer line can be accessed. The same idea can be used to scroll up and down on the screen, giving more than a single screen to edit. In fact, the screen editor has then become an entire text editor where the operator can manipulate the whole file at one time.

However, it would be tiresome if the operator had to adjust all the following text if only part of a line is added. All word processors have features to reformat the text to any given width and margin. Format routines may include columns and other special layouts. Usually special symbols are used on the screen to indicate the fayout. Some word processors have the ability to mark and then manipulate blocks of data.

Other features of the editor will relate to printing. Special symbols are used to select functions of the printer. These control characters will affect line spacing, starting a new page and any character-set options. A very common use is to select bold characters for headings. Character set features may include special symbols such as mathematical notation or common graphic characters.

This is all very well, but it is important to bear in mind the abilities of the hardware. Some machines connect to an enormous variety of printers such as laser printers, microfiche and typesetters. Often a word-processor is connected to a communications network which offers many difficult forms of output including output to another machine's screen (electronic mail). However, the typical machine has only its own printer attached. Usually this will be a high-quality printer of the daisy-wheel type, which is limited to standard character sets.

There are other aspects of a word processing system than editing and printing. Facilities are provided to store and retrieve data. File maintenance software will take security copies and keep indices. Some manufacturers also ofter spelling checkers to highlight words not in the vocabulary. Another common feature is to produce standard letters given a list of the variable data; for example, a list of names and addresses. Finally, the most complex refinement offered by some systems is to do all the above for several screens sharing the same printers and other hardware

Design of the PCW-C64-WP

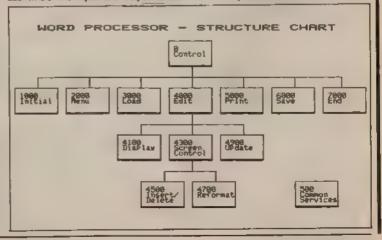
This word processor was designed to be entirely coded in Basic. By doing so, the program is quick to implement, easy to understand and simple to extend. However, there are two major drawbacks. Firstly, Basic is relatively slow, so it is necessary to use whole line input and output to the

screen. This means that lines must be marked by inverted commas if leading spaces or punctuation are present. This is done automatically by the program. Secondly, Commodore 64 Basic can not be made infallible or break-proof. The system can be broken by the Run Stop key, or by typing invalid characters on the screen. (Never use double inverted commas in your text!) There is a way to restart the program without losing your data, but it is unsatisfactory that Basic does not permit the program to trap its own errors and recover.

It is designed with sufficient structure for its level of complexity, with a control module which first calls the initialise routine and then offers the menu, followed by whichever option is selected. This sequence of menu then option if repeated until the Finish option is selected. The program loads and saves data files on cassette lape. (You may wish to make your first change to the system so that it will also handle disc files.) These routines can handle all or part of the data. The save routine can also read back the file to verify the tape.

The print routine prints to a printer on channel 4 or 5, or to the TV screen. The TV option permits the user to view the finished layout without printing. All or part of the data may be printed, and several layout options are available. A standard margin can be added to each line, and each line can be numbered. This latter feature is useful in selecting which line numbers are required for editing, part printing or part saving. A page length can be given which dictates how many lines to print continuously. A page gap is then specified to control how many blank lines to print between pages. Alternatively, the program will pause while the paper is lined up manually. Special print control characters are available to start a new page (†) and to indicate a blank line

The major part of the program is the screen editor. The design is similar to most screen editors on maintrame computers. The user specifies where to start in the file



and how much data to show on the screen. This data is changed using the keyboard. including the Insert and Delete keys. Logical lines can be up to 80 characters which is two lines on the screen. As with the Basic line editor, the computer remembers which lines are linked in this way. When the text is as required, the F1 key is used to finish the edit. If the edit is not aborted, whatever is now on the screen replaces the lines originally displayed.

Special functions are available to assist in the addition or deletion of text. The F3 function will reformat the text to a given width, allowing for any additional margin required. (Note that new page and blank

line characters are not affected.) F5 causes an additional blank line to be available at the current position of the cursor. F6 ? deletes a line from the screen at the current cursor position. F7 moves the cursor to the start of the next logical line without ending Defaults: the current line. The Return key is used at the end of a line. It will terminate the line at that point, disregarding any subsequent

Next week, we will take a more detailed look at how to use the PCW-C64-WP.

Operator's Notes

Find Felt Reformat text Delete line **F3** ER

(F6 = shift+5) F7 Go to next logical line Use Return key at end of line ← Visible blank line 1 Start new page

Edit starts at end of file displays 0 lines Print, Load and Save start at record 5 end at end of file Print page gap-pause option device-TV screen maroin = 0no line aumheriza

Reformatto width 70 & margin Dill you break Basic enter GOTO 999

```
WORD PROCESSOR BY SIMON WALLACE 2040 Print"
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      2100 Frint sPc(12) "B L c Load"
2110 Frint sPc(12) "B E Edit"
2120 Frint sPc(12) "B P Print
  O DEM
                                             "VERSION 20"
  5 rem
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      Peint'
  8 rem...."CONTROL MODULE"
10 Yosub 1000
40 Posub 2000
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       2130 Print spc(12) "B 5
2130 Print spc(12) "B 5
2240 Print spc(12) "B 6
2290 Set xs s=0
2210 if xs="t" then a=1
2220 if xs="e" then a=2
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      Save
 S88 rem..."COMMON SERVICE ROUTINES"
518 Print's Press and key to continue (**)
528 set as 16 x8="" then 528
538 return
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      2238 if x8="e" then a=3
2238 if x8="p" then a=3
2248 if x8="f" then a=3
2258 if x6="f" then a=5
2268 if acl then 2208
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      2278 return CORD ROUTINE"
3898 rew." LORD ROUTINE"
3898 rew. "LORD ROUTINE"
3828 rem. "LORD DATA FILE FROM TAPES"
    550 rem PAP between Pages
  560 if P920 then for k=1 to 570 if P960 then 90sub 510
                                                                                            to by Print#2 : next k
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      3820 Print "MEMBE LOAD DATA FILE FROM TAPER"
3824 rem. the following lines are also gosubbed from 6830
3825 fis=""
3828 Print" Enter Filenime"
3828 Print" (1-15 characters in lower case)E"
3830 input" Filenime = "file
3840 if file = "" then return
   580 1c=8
  600 rem read screen
605 open 1.3 ln=0
   610 Print Chr$(19),
  620 for J=1 to 25
630 sys 49152 R
                                                          EPPeek (253)
               if wirl then inmi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      3050 Print "B Enter start and end line numbers"
3050 Print "Gor Press (RETURN) for whole file)M"
3070 Print "Gor Press (RETURN) for whole file)M"
3070 Print "Start line no ".] 'if
then Jef 90to 3055
3080 Imput "End line no ".k if KKJ then return
  668 for [n#25 to ] steP-1 - 10 sc#:[n]()** then 688 678 next in
  590 close 1 - Poke 53290.11 - return
700 rem start neu line
710 sys 49152 - Print" "; - Poke Reek(253)840+1024.36
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     888 rem set up edit screen
919 Print "#", - rem clear screen
828 for i=1824 to 1984 step 40 - poke j.34 : poke jej.34
       next /
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 
1838 din sc8(25) tx8(2000)
1835 bls: - en 40 spaces
1846 cds- - en 40 spaces
1845 quanches(34) | 428 mush chr 8(44)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       3218 eof=1
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     Print "End of fale at line ".eof
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      3980 90sub 510
3999 return
4000 ren., "EDIT"
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    3999 return
4000 rem."EDIT"
4000 poke 52280,11 : Poke 52281,13
4010 Poke 52280,11 : Poke 52281,13
4020 Print "##"$PC(12) "#Screen Editor"
4028 Print "# Live no or End (E)".
4038 18**strs(acf41) : iPut 18
4035 if 18**er or iS**E" then return
4037 el**vai(18) : if el>eof+1 then Print"# ERROR - End of
file atlieof 9000 4025
4039 if el(1 then Print "# ERROR" 9010 4025
1855 read : xmx+i+; : if i<0 then 1180
1856 if i>255 then i=1: 3cto 1650
1879 poke i.i. i=i+i - 3cto 1650
1188 if x⇔52466 then Print″error - check tyPin9 - checksum
1118 return
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    Tile at "eof 90t0 4925" 4839 if el(1 then Print "E ERROR" goto 4825 4898 ene@ . Input No lines to display" en 4945 if en(0 or en)24 then Print "E ERROR" : 90t0 4825 4868 posub 4388
1580 rem. R/c code to Plot cursor Position
1581 rem. also - turn border red if on bottom line or
if 3= column 20
18 3= COLUMN 28 1394 data 49152.56.32.248.255.134,253.132,254 1596 reh "SEC JSR PLOT STX 253 : STY 254" 1510 data 138.162.11.233.24.48.2.162.2 162.2 1515 reh "TXR LDX 011 SBC 024 801 2 : LDX 02 " 1520 data 152.233.78.48.2.162.2.142.32.200.96.-1 1525 reh "TYR SBC 0270 BMI 2 : LDX 02 : STX 53200 : RTS" Position to turn red
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      4070 90sub 4900
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     4889 Poto 4816
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    4100 res.. "DISPLAY"
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   1538 rem. the third number in line IS28 isthe cursor 2000 rem. "THE NU" 2020 Poke 53201.5 2030 Print Number Word Processor MM Simon Wallace
```

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Open Forum

Open Forum is for you to publish your programs and ideas. Take care that the listings you send in are all bug-free. Your documentation should start with a general description of the program and what it does and then give some detail of how the program is constructed.

Spectra

on BBC

Welcome to Spectra. This program draws a planet and then with animated graphics

rotates it about its axis. The program makes use of BBC colour/sound and hi-res graphic routines.

Program Notes

10 — 50 Rem statements (can be left out) 80 — Computer goes into Graphic Mode 2 800—810

70 — 130 Sets up arrays to store Sine & Cosine routines
180 — 240 Assigns Proc statements

280 — 310 Procedure for picting stars
330 — 410 Procedure for drawing the Planet
430 — 580 Draws the lines of Longitude (North
580 — 690 Procedure for drawing the dispersion that dispersion the di

710 - 780

Procedure for drawing the ring round the planet Special procedure for the animated ro-

tation
810 Two lines to aid the rotation progress

```
10 REM
          ************************ 439 DEF PROCLONGITUDE
  28
    PEN.
          ***
                   SPECTRA
                                 *** 440 CX=5
 SB REM
          光文米
                 N. Etheridge
                                 *** 450 FOR LX=0 TO 45
 40 REN
          坐空空
                                 ### 460 CX=CX+1
                  (c) 1984
 MES REM
          68 MODES
                                     488 GC0L8.CX
 78 DIM S(98), C(98)
                                     498 FOR SON=8 TO 45 STEP &
                                     500 X=5(900)*C(LX)*RX
 RM REX=-1
 38 RX=488
                                     518 Y=0180% )#R%
188 FOR A=0 70 RAD 360 STEP RAD 4
                                     529 IF SOX THEN KX=5 FLSE KX=4
110 30%=80%+9
                                     532 PLOT KX. FNX. FNY
120 B(SCX)=SIN(A):C(SCX)=CBS(A)
                                     540 MEXT
138
    ASSET
                                     559 NEXT
1 0.03
    VDU23:8202:8:0:0:
                                     36% EMDERSO
159
    -v00119,0,4,0;
                                     57.8
    VOU19,4,7:2:
168
                                     588 DEF PROCESTURK
170
    V0019.7.0:0:
                                     590
                                          scole, 4
188 PRODSTARS
                                     500 FOR WAR500 TO 570 9789 9
198 PROCELANET
                                     SIS FOR REASE TO BE STOR A
200 PROCLONGITUDE
                                     588 80%±R% 400 99
216 PROCSATURN
                                         TE RWESS THEN KWEA BUSE KWES
                                     5.314
228 REPERT
                                     おきら メキさいまさなりを以及
230 PRODSPECTRA
                                         M#96 902 581 00
240 UNTIL FALSE
                                     SEE ALOTKE, FUR, FU
党围的
269 DEF PROOSTARS
                                     REZ NEXT
278 FOR STX=2 TO 700
280 GODLE, RND(15)
298 PL
       T69, RND(1250), RND(1023)
                                     7:5
                                         ASTORABIOSE PEO
SER MEXT
                                         FOR 500=7 TO 35
310 ENDERDO
                                     738
                                         SOUND1,-15.5,.1:880ND1,-15 (8.11
320
                                         VOUSEP+CK, 7; 8;
BOW DEF PROCELANTY
                                     752 WAITHS HIEV( 58)
346
    √0029,648;512;
                                         V0Ju8+02, 2, 2,
350 GCC10,2
                                     778 NEXT
368 MOVER, 8
                                     780 ENDEROC
370 FOR SCX=0 TO 90 STEP 2
                                     TEE
SAR MOVER. 3
                                    海免疫
                                         DEFFINAT(图、序案等)+(1-图、4%字)
390 FLOT85 8(SCN)*R%, C(SCN)*R%
                                    810 DEFENY=(3.4%X)+(8.9%Y)
4800 科巴风子
410 ENDERDO
420
```

Spectra by N Etheridge

Open Forum

Psychiatrist

on Spectrum

This program simulates human intelligence by giving reasonable replies III questions and phrases the user types in. Shorter inputs generally get more rewarding responses and will be analysed more quickly. Before running the program ensure Caps Lock is on as the program ignores lower case entries.

and will give a crude spoken answer if you statements.

have it attached. If you don't have one lines 1000 onwards can be omitted and line 167 should be removed. Change 175 Goto 10. The program works by slicing the inputted question into single words then comparing This program uses Currah Micro Speech these words with set ones held in data

1 BORDER 0: PAPER 8: INK 7: C LS INPUT "SFEECH =1 , TEXT =0 ";T\$ LET SPE=0: IF TS="1" THEN L SPE=1 10 INPUT As: LET As=As+" "
11 LET S=1
12 IF As=" " THEN GO TO 10
13 IF As (LEN As-1) ="?" THEN LE
AS=AS (TO LEN As-1) +" "
14 IF LEN AS (THEN LET AS=AS+ 15 LET R\$="": LET D\$="": LET Q \$="": LET R\$="": LET S1±1: LET D =0: LET NEG=0: LET N\$="" 20 FOR R=1 TO LEN A\$: IF A\$(A) <>" " THEN NEXT A: GO TO 75 25 LET U\$=R\$(51 TO R-1): LET 5 1=A+(1 AND A<>LEN A\$) 30 RESTORE 35: FOR B=1 TO 5: R EAD #\$.04 EAD D 81,C1 35 DATA "#YOU","ME","+ME","YOU "+I","YOU","+MY","YOUR","#YOUR **"特益"。** LET DD=(1 AND B\$(1)="#")+0; B\$=B\$(2 TO) IF U\$(>B\$ THEN NEXT B: GO T 55 45 IF U\$="YOU" RND D=0 THEN LE C\$="I" 50 LET R\$=R\$+C\$+" ": LET D=D+D LET R#=R\$+C\$+" ": LET D=D+D D: NEXT A: GO TO 75 55 RESTORE 60: FOR 8=1 TO 5: B BS EAD 50 DATA "NO", "NOT", "NEVER", "DO NT", "CANT" 55 IF W\$<>5\$ THEN NEXT A: GO TO 75 76 LET NEG=1: LET N\$=8\$4" ": N RESTORE 80: FOR B=1 TO 9: R 75 EAO B\$ "DOES", "DO", "UHY", "UHA B0 DATA "DOES", "DO", "UHY", "UHA T", "UHEN", "UILL", "CAN", "COULD"," SHOULD" 85 IF R\$(TO (LEN B\$ AND LEN B \$(LEN R\$)) = B\$ THEN LET R\$=R\$(LEN B\$+2 TO): LET Q=1: LET Q\$=B\$: GO TO 100 90 NEXT B 95 DATA "UHY DO YOU WANT TO KN OU"+R\$,"IM NOT TELLING YOU","IM ASKING THE QUESTIONS","CHANGE TH SUBJECT" 96 DATA "CARRY ON", "DH I SEE",
"WHY DONT YOU "+R\$,"I SEE"
100 IF N\$="NEUER" THEN LET N\$= DONT " 110 IF NEG=1 THEN GO TO 130 120 RESTORE 35: FOR B=1 TO 5: R EAD B\$,C\$: LET B\$=B\$(2 TO): IF R\$(TO (LEN B\$ AND LEN B\$:LEN R\$)) =B\$ THEN LET D\$=B\$: LET R\$=R\$(LEN B\$+2 TO): GO TO 130

30 IF NS="" THEN LET NS="DO YO 138 131 LET UN=Ø 131 LET UN=0

135 IF Ds<>"" AND Qs="" OR Ds()
"AND NEG=1 THEN LET Ns="DO, YOU
5AY."+Ds+"."

136 RESTORE 35; FOR B=1 TO S: MEAD B\$,C\$: LET B\$=B\$(2 TO)

137 IF R\$(5 TO (5+LEN B\$-1 AND
5+LEN B\$-1
 UN=UN+1: IF UN>2 THEN LET R\$=R\$(
TO S-1+LEN B\$); GO TO 150

136 NEXT B; LET S=5+1; IF S 136 NEXT B: LET S=S+1: IF S(LEN R\$ THEN GO TO 135
150 LET X\$="WHY" "+M\$+R\$+" "+(U\$
RMD R\$(LEN R\$-LEN U\$ TO LEN R\$-AND R\$(LEN R\$-LEN US TO LEN R\$-1)(>U\$)

155 IF Q\$="UHAT" OR Q\$="UHEN" T HEN RESTORE QS: FOR B=1 TO INT (RND*4)+1: RERD X\$: NEXT B 160 IF A\$=R\$ THEN RESTORE 95: F DR B=1 TO INT (RND*4)+1: READ X\$: NEXT B 164 IF LEN X\$(32 THEN LET X\$=X\$ +" "(TO 3R-LEN X#)

165 IF R#="" THEN LET X#="UHAT
RBOUT HE
1166 IF X# (32) <>" " THEN LET X# 165 IF R\$="" THEN LET X\$="UHAT ABOUT HE

166 IF X\$(32) <>" "THEN LET X\$=

X\$(TO 31) +" "*x\$(32 TO)

167 IF SP\$=1 THEN GO TO 1000

170 LET SC=USR 3582: PRINT AT 2

1,0;X\$(TO 32)

171 IF LEN X\$>32 THEN LET SC=US

R 3582: PRINT AT 21,0;X\$(33 TO)

175 IF SP\$=8 THEN GO TO 10

1900 DATA "SAY","S(33)","R","(33

1","UHANT","(34) ONT","TO","("TT) (0)

"","UHO","(%h) (OUU)","ME","\$(66)

""I","(ii)","YOUR","(9)(9)U)","MY","(11)(11)","YOU","(10)(11)","TO","(11)","YOUR","(10)(11)","TO","(11)",""(11 LET LET # = x \$ (ss TO (t-1 AND t- x \$)): LET ss = (t+1 AND t+1 (1 (LEN LEN X\$? 1804 IF LEN W\$=0 THEN GO TO 1840 1805 RESTORE 1800: FOR f=1 TO 19 1005 RESTURE 1000: FOR F: READ & \$, b\$
1010 IF W\$</a\$ THEN NEXT
Z\$=Z\$+" "+W\$: GD TD 1040
1015 LET Z\$=Z\$+" "+b\$
1040 NEXT t
1045 IF SPC=1 THEN LET S F SPE=1 THEN LET SE=Z#: TO 200: NEXT y: GO TO 10 4=0

> **Psychiatrist** by Mark Andrews

Open Forum

The Box

on BBC

This program is for any BBC computer in Mode 7.

This program produces a double lined border around any number of characters.

Both the character's colour and the border colour can be set up. The demonstration shows the boxes overlapping and sepa-

```
10 REM MODE? BOX PROGRAM
 20MDDE7:VDU23:11,0:0:0;0;0
30 PROChox (0, 2, 149, 131, "A")
40 PROChox (5, 9, 145, 134, "Box")
50 PROCEOx (13, 16, 148, 133, "DEMONSTRATION")
 60 PROCbox (18, 2, 151, 130, "By G. PARRIS")
 70 GOTD70:END
 80
 90 DEFPROCEOX (X%, Y%, C, C2, A$)
100 n=LEN(A$)+2: RESTORE 170
110 FORR%=0TD7
120 READ a, b, c, d, e, f, g
130 IF RX=3 OR RX=4 THEN VDU31, XX, YX+RX, C, a, b, c, C2, 32*PRINTA$; *VDUd,
e, f, g:NEXT140 VDU31, Xx+1, Yx+Rx, C, a, b, c:PRINTSTRING*(n, CHR$d);:VDUe, f, g
150 NEXT:ENDPROC
160
170 DATA 95, 112, 112, 112, 112, 112, 48
180 DATA 106, 95, 112, 112, 112, 48, 53
190 DATA 106, 106, 32, 32, 32, 53, 53
200 DATA 141, 106, 106, C, 32, 53, 53
210 DATA 141, 106, 106, C, 32, 53, 53
220 DATA 106, 106, 32, 32, 32, 53, 53
230 DATA 106, 162, 163, 96, 96, 33, 53
                                                                             The Box
240 DATA 162, 163, 163, 96, 96, 96, 33
                                                                             by G Parris
```

Microradio



Summon the Space cavalry

This week I will continue the review of the Tandy TRS 80 Model 100 and its applications in radio.

I have mentioned before the AMT-1 communications interface from ICS Electronics in reference to the Commodore series of computers. The AMT-1 can, however, also be used with RS232C interfaces, one such being on the Model 100. It is a simple enough job to connect the Tandy to the AMT-1. It offers, apart from the usual Radio Teletype, the Amtor system which is a form

of extremely accurate radio teletype with error checking facilities.

Amtor is a British system first invented by J. P. Martinez. G3PLX. Once two stations using the system are locked together synchronously, then the contact will remain almost completely 100 per cent even through difficult interference conditions. This is faster and more accurate than morse code as well as being a lot more efficient. Of course you could still use Morse Code on this system, but that would be akin to using a hammer to crack a

The other mode available with the unit is direct ASCII. Several band rates are available set by another program resident in the incredible Model 100. Called *Telecom*, this program is designed to send data and files, etc., over the phone, but of course it can be used just as well to send data over the air. Just think for a

minute about what your computer can display on the screen using the in-built ASCII codes that contain III the characters available on your keyboard. Whatever you type, or have contained in memory files, can be transmitted. This column could be transmitted. In a matter of seconds. Using the Model 100 and the AMT-1, very sophisticated and error free communication is possible.

The radio applications of the Model 100 are in themselves justification for getting the machine. Added to that are the facilities and in-built programs that make life so easy with the machine as well as the RS232c interface and parallel printer port.

In fact, the combined cost of the Model 100 and the AMT-1 is well below that of most shortwave radio transceivers. During the review period, I found the machine a great asset III my radio shack and, since III ii made by a company whose name is Radio Shack in the United States, it somehow seemed fitting.

With the Model 100, which is no bigger than the size of this magazine, one can communicate worldwide and have the facilities of computers that only a few years ago filled whole rooms. I can remember seeing films when I was about ren years old where the hero merely spoke into his wristwatch in order summon the space cavalry. Now we are almost at the point where we can take such things for granted. More on wristwatch radios next

Ray Berry GW6JJN

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Open Forum

Starburst

on Dragon

This produces a starburst effect in a series of colours and backgrounds chosen on a random basis.

Program notes 10-20 Prepares screen 30-40 Sets Variables 50 Draws lines

1 REM STAR BURST

5 REM M. TRUELOVE 1984

10 N=RND(4)

20 PMODE N: SCREEN N,N:PCLS N

30 FOR A=1 TO 255 STEP 10

40 FOR B=1 TO 255 STEP 10

50 LINE(127,90)-(A,B), PSET

60 NEXT B

70 NEXT A

80 GOTO 10

Starburst by Mark Truelove

Arcade Avenue

Tip of the iceberg

This week I continue my look at Ocean Software by looking at some of their latest releases.

Exkimo Eddie is another in the line of well produced areade copies that made Ocean its name. In case you can't guess from the title this is a version of Pengo that reinforces the reputation for graphics that the company has. Of all the myriad versions of Pengo that have been released for the Spectrum, this one looks most like the original pengun character.

The game also plays better than the majority of the releases by other houses, although that doesn't mean it plays welf. Pengo is one of my favourite areade games and Eskimo Eddie made me painfully aware of the slowness of the Spectrum compared to dedicated machines. The penguin is slow to respond compared to the speed of the snow bees and. since there are fewer places to run on the limited screen size of the machine, it proves incredibly hard to survive,

Like Mr Wimpy this game opens with m bonus screen unrelated to the original areade

format — in this case a sort of arctic frogger which involves dodging polar bears and icebergs. Unfortunately, this proves ridiculously easy if you wait at one side of the screen and time your dash carefully, and it soon becomes a merely irritating impediment to getting on with the *Pengo* game.

However, if you are looking for a pretty good version than do consider this one, especially if you have one of the many joystick options because this will make all the difference to the playability.

Pogo is Ocean's latest charting release and deservedly so, It is without doubt the best Q-Bert I have seen for the Spectrum (although Automata's Pi-Balled comes close). There is no point in explaining what it's about since I'm sure you all know, but take my word

that the graphics are excellent, the sound is good and the level of difficulty seems just right. The big departure for Ocean was that this game is in fact licensed from R&R Software. This obviously gives the advantage of Ocean's reputation and marketing clout method the smaller company and a similar deal

seems to have been reached by Vortex for the CBM 64 version of the excellent Android 2.

The Hungarian company Andromeda have written Chinese Juggler for Ocean, a game that deservedly has received many kudos for its originality. Based on the old magic act where a demented refugee from Pyrex spins dozens of plates on long wobbly sticks. the quality of this game is beyond question. Graphics and music are superb and if, like me, you found the original stage act mind numbingly dull to watch don't worry. Playing Juggler is almost like being there yourself with all the frustration and addiction. My only regret is that the plates do not smash everywhere adding to the chaos.

Recently released for the Spectrum as well as the CBM 64, it will be interesting to see if the version for the Sinclair machine is as good. The wonderful soundtrack added so much to the Commodore game.

The final game I want to look at is Transversion, one of Ocean's lesser known program. This release is worthy of note for several reasons. It is a

shoot-em-up space game (rare for Ocean), it is a 16K game (very rare for Ocean) and it is an original game that is written by one of Ocean's own programmers (gasp . . . faint). So what's it like? Well, pretty average really. It is a graphically unambitious grid game rather reminiscent of Jeff Minter without the loud whams! and blams! It suffers from being 16K but Ultimate proved that that should not stop a great game being great. Transversion is reasonably addictive and worthy of several plays, but is really nothing special.

So there we are. I'm still waiting to get a glimpse of Gilligans Gold and Cavelon, the two latest releases. One day Ocean will come up with an original game, written by themselves, that is of the same quality as their areade copies. It should be worth waiting for.

Tony Kendle

The Arcade Corner is a new section for anyone who enjoys playing arcade games. If you have any comments, from playing tips on difficult games or programs you'd particularly file to praise (or blame!) then write to: Tony Kendle, Arcade Avanue. Papular Computing Week-ly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WGZR SLD.

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LIFE MEMBERSHIP 25



Tony Bridge's Adventure Corner



Lost in the forest

Now to some of your letters: Christopher Rolland, from West Sussex, writes about Inca Cure, Adventure III from Artic. "Dear Tony, I cannot get past the latched door to the Temple, I have tried everything, but nothing will work. Please help!" When confronted by a locked door, one of the things that may work in an adventure, apart from unlocking it with a key, is to Break the door or lock in some way. In Inca Curse, you should have found something in the first location (the Cleaning). To find this, and to use it, try (the Comer Code. Start at the second letter and read off every other letter. At the end, return to the first letter and repeat the process.

ESAT/KRLI/APTUCEHA/(VHE/OSW 4 / PG)E/ 4 TUS STEE//SCTK/I + CB/KR

"Tony Bridge — HELP!! I desperately need your advice on Madness and Minotaur for the Dragon 32, as I am stuck on lirst floor looking for the elusive mushroom, which you need to get the first spell. Also, I can't get the lamp to fight."

This is from Richard Iveson of East Yorks. Well, Alchard, this is an Adventure that I haven't had the pleasure of playing myself, although some months ago there was a flurry of interest in it from readers of this column (see Vol 2 No 31, in which Brian Cadge reviewed it — he didn't like it). This might be a clue to the problem with the lamp:

IULR/FNOC/HOTN/HTEA/LIAN/MSPO

And as for the dreaded mushroom, which seems to have caused an awful lot of trouble:

RYAO/NUON/TEHE/EDMF/JOSO/HDRF/OROO/ MMFF/RIOR/MSTT/HFIL/RODO

Scott Adams is a name that surely needs no introduction to readers of the Corner, Several letters have reached The Grand Eff concerning the cartridge versions of the series for the Vic-20.

"Dear Tony, How do I enter the crack in Voodoo Castle? ■ Adventureland, I can't get past the throne room. Help, please! Pirate Cove has me stumped trying ■ get the second treasure.

"Here are my votes for these Adventures:

Voodoo Castle 8/10: a very good Adventure, really gets the brain and imagination working — very hard, superb Scott Adams! Adventureland 7/10: I think I'd enjoy it more if I could get further, but whenever I feel down, a witty comment!

Pirate Cove 10/10: Brilliant! Debbie Dore (age 12) Greater Manchester.

I agree with your rating of Pirate Cove, Debbie, it ■ my tavourite Scott Adams — at the moment! I have just started playing this one and can't help your much (maybe some kind person . . .), but as a nudge in the right direction, try reading the map! To get through the crack, you may find that the Medium will be able to help you. There in a mirror in the tava, but I don't have the faintest idea how you might get it. Help please!

David Poole from Crewe, is also having trouble with Voodoo Castle. He says that the lamp mentioned doesn't exist — but have you got the Idol, David? If you try cleaning it, you may find it has some wonderful properties that will help shed light on the darker corners of the Castlet And incidentally, yes, the Scott Adams book of Hints is available in the UK. It will cost you about a fiver, and your focal Atari/

solved a few games, but is having terrible trouble with Knight's Quest:

"We are stuck at the narrow cleft and have tried just about everything but nothing works, if I am to encourage greater participation in the club, it is essential that problems are solved within a reasonable time span."

I have to sympathise, Mr Christie, adventures can often be very annoying. However, the environment you describe, with many people putting their heads together to wrestie with problem, will eventually uncover the solution. — I always find that two heads are better than one in working through an Adventure.

By now, you will have probably found the solution to the Narrow Cleft, but for anyone else at the same place in this most intriguing program, ill that needs to be done (as you will find that your character cannot go through the crack in person) is to send someone else. This is one of those solutions that ill so stunningly obvious when pointed out to you that you wonder how you could have missed iff — an excellent example of the sort of problem to be found in Knight's Quast.

Finally, the first letter asking about an



Commodore stockist should have it. It's very useful in some cases, but will by no means give you the whole solution to any of the Adventures.

Mrs C White writes from Woking to beg for help in *The Count*. "This is our very first Adventure and quite honestly, we've got nowhere. Can you give us a few clues?"

Scott Adams Adventures are a good place to start, Mrs White, though they are not the easiest. In The Count, It would seem to be a good idea to go and find the Count before he comes to get you! Start by examining the Castle from the outside. If this doesn't help, you might find some objects near the bed — if you find the Crypt after all this, there'll be something there that will point you to the Count's resting place.

Turning from Scott Adams now, I received a letter from Brian Christie of Beifast some weeks ago. He runs an Adventure Club in the local youth club, which has

adventure for the Memotech MTX 512. It's from D R Brimmer of Chandler's Ford, near Southampton. He is stuck in Alice in Wonderland, and he cannot get the warrant without getting lost in the Forest. Can anyone help?

We've neglected The Hobbit Hall of Fame for ■ while, so next week I will update it with some of the many names of people who have completed the Adventure

This series of erbores is designed for novice and experienced Adventurers alike. Each week Tony Bridge will be looking at different Adventures and advising you on some of the problems and pitfalls you can expect to encounter. So, if you have an Adventure you want reviewed, or if you are stuck in an Adventure and cannot progress any furtherwise to: Tony Bridge, Adventure Comer. Propular Computing Weekly. 12-13 Little Newport Street, Lendon WC29-3LD.



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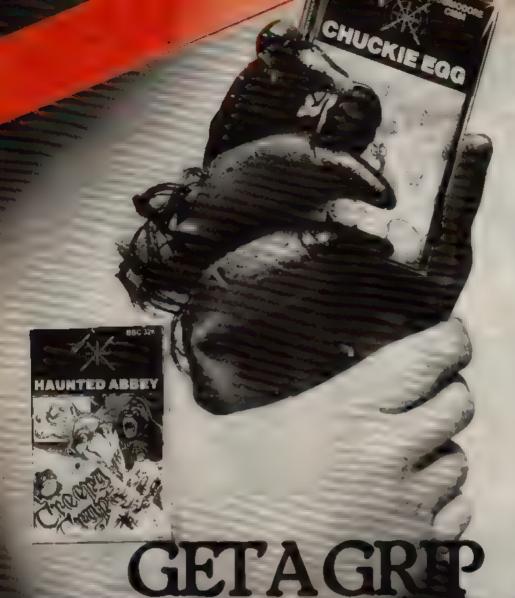
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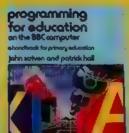
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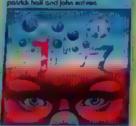
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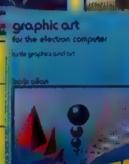


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Peek & Poke



A Simple. Answer

Andrew Hollyhead of Tiffany Green, West Midlands writes:

A lawe a ZX81 and 16k. Rampack. For a while I have been contemplating buying a ZX printer. But, for my computer course at school I have an Acorn Electron to help me. Is there an interface that will let me run a ZX printer from an Electron?

A The simple answer is no. Although a number of companies are working on RS-232 printer interfaces for the Electron, I have not been able to find anyone who in working on a ZX printer interface. Also, the fact that Sinclair are to stop production of the ZX printer makes it even more unlikely that one will ever appear.

Across The Pond

Marcel Basi, of Aberdeen writes:

I will have to leave for the USA in a few months time. I have got a BBC model B and I would like to be able to use it over there. What exactly do I have III do to modify II so that It will work in the States without any problems?

A I am indebted to Bill Murray of the RAF for the answer to this question. Bill has recently returned from the States and he wrote to me of his experiences, which were:

t) take a British to with you 2) buy a 120-240 volt transformer before you go

3) you will need to replace all

your plugs when you get there as US plugs are much smaller

Bill also suggests that, as computer prices are so much lower in the States than they are here, it might be cheaper and simpler for you to buy a new machine when you get out there.

Financial Times

D. P. Harrison of Fredrick Street, London writes:

Q I have had a 48k Spectrum for some months

f am at the moment writing a financial program which requires saving string and numeric variables at one point and then reloading them back into the program at a later stage for further calculations. I have been having trouble reloading the data back in. I have seen similar programs where files are used for address book-type programs, but not for a mixture of string and numeric data.

Could you let me know the solution to this problem?

A I don't know whether I can solve your problem bu maybe an example would help.

to DIM at(20,12) 20 DIM v(20)

30 FOR i w 1 TO 20 40 INPUT "SALES STAFF" LINE A\$(i) 50 INPUT "VALUE OF OR-

DER" LINE V(i)

70 SAVE "names" DATA aS() 80 SAVE "vals" DATA v()

The above program will accept details of 20 sales staff. The information entered is the sales person's name and the value of orders taken. Lines 70 and 80 save this data on cassette. To load the data back in to the program you need to use; Load " Data v(). Ie. you need to reload your data into either the same or similar arrays (the Dim statements must be the same).

I hope this helps you on your

Locked-Up Games

R Barnes of Peterborough writes:

Could you tell me why some machine-code games on my 1.20S BBC Model B lock up as soon as they have loaded and are ready to be played. My computer is normally reliable, and the same games such as Acornsoft's Snooker work perfectly well on a friend's 1.20S BBC.

I hope that you'll be able to tell me the solution to this knowing me it probably has a very simple explanation.

A Unfortunately not. I wonder if you have disc drives connected? Loading problems associated with discs on the BBC (some makes of drive) are quite common.

If you have a cassette-based system, have you tried your recorder with your friend's BBC? If it doesn't work you know you need a new recorder. If that isn't the fault I suggest that you take your computer to your friend's house and try and load using his set-up onto your machine. If it doesn't work then you would be well advised to have your computer tested by an Acorn dealer.

Control Characters

B. Coleman of North Hyeham, Lincoln writes:

Q Basic programs published in magazines and hooks often use a command to position the cursor when row and column numbers have been included. For example, Print Tabl (C, r), "x", where c is the column, and r is the row.

This does not work with the Aquarius. Can you please tell me the correct formula?

A No facility exists in standard Basic to do this on the Aquarius. This same problem has been faced by Vic20 owners for some time.

The only way round it in Basic is by including the correct number of Newline and Cursor Right control characters in each string to be printed — which is pretty tedious.

The lack of a Tab facility on

the Aquarius means that getting good screen displays is a very laborious process, I'm afraid.

Full-Size Copies

R D Appleby of Cwmbran Gwent writes:

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For more information on the range of facilities available I suggest, you contact Tasman yourself. The address in Tasman Software, 17 Hartley Cresent, Leeds LS6 2LL.

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Kevin Stone, of Basildon, Es-

Q I would be interested me know whether a ZX81 or Spectrum can be used to control a burglar alarm system on a bouse, and also whether there are any books on the subject.

A It is indeed possible for either of these machines to be used to control an alarm system. A useful introduction to the subject would be *The Spectrum Hardware Manual* by Dickens published by Melburne House, and available from most computer retailers.

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CARTOON **GIANTS**

Valhalla is now available for the Commodore 64. On the Spectrum the game wiped the floor with just about all the other Christmas releases and won Game of the Year in at least a couple of award schemes. You might say that Legend are moderately confident about the program's chances on the 64



For a general overview of the game which is not easily summarised, you'd best refer to the various reviews/Streetlife which PCW did around November last year, when the Spectrum version was first issued. Suffice to say it isn't quite like anything else and is probably best characterised as Legend themselves characterise it, as a computer movie in which you are the most important but not the only character.

There was much anticipation as to what the extra memory and graphics facilities on the 64 would mean to the overall look of the game, Graphically, what extra colours, better sprites, and no colour resolution problems has meant is a game that looks even more like a cartoon - the giants lumber along most convincingly and the Raven smoothly flaps its wing.

These changes add quite a lot to the game but perhaps nothing really crucial, what is crucial is a general 'speeding up' of the action - this is a version of Valhalla you can't leave for a second lest something gets stolen or you get killed. I suspect this is a deliberate attempt by Legend to combat the 'bystander' syndrome in which people tended to simply sit and watch the action rather than take an active part. For example, objects that happen to be lying around like rings, wine, food, etc are far less likely to remain for long in this version - if you need to drink you better type in your instruction quickly because otherwise you can be sure one of the other characters will happily take in.

I think it is pretty safe to say that Valhalla on the Commodore is a better game not. primarily because of the graphies, but rather because of the change of pad. II I have a quibble it is that the excellent sound of the 64 is not more widely used to provide some sort of continuous soundtrack - done correctly I think that might have moved the computer movie concept one step further still, but nevertheless Valhalla remains a unique and important game and Commodore 64 owners should beg, borrow or steal the money to get this

Program Price Micro

Valhali £14.95 Commodore 64 Legend PO Box 435 Station Road London E4 71X

RELIEVING LIFE'S BOREDOM

Block Buster is a quiz game for one or two players in which a series of general knowledge questions are asked by the computer.

Such games are usually dreadfully boring, but this one has some nice features - you can interupt just as in real quiz games if you think you know what the whole question is and are sure of the answer.

One player controls one set of coloured blocks, the opponent the other - for each right answer you can build an extra block and eventually cross the

The program comes with an extra tane of data for additional questions and retails for a suprisingly reasonable £5.95.

Block Buster Program. \$5.05

LOW-LEVEL FLYING

Tornado Low Level in the la- The sense of speed is spectacutest release from Vortex software, famous for Android's I and 2 and it is marvellous, more than that, it has some of the most impressive 3D graphics I've ever seen on the spectrum. In fact, apart from the sound, it could easily be a Commodore 64 game.

The general idea is a little like Virgin's Falcon Patrol you control a swing wing fighter which you pilot, refueling where necessary, to various targets depicted on a large scale map. This means zooming over a landscape at low level watching out for tall buildings and not getting lost.

lar as is the shadow of the aircraft which behaves exactly as a shadow should, (you'll have to see the game to understand what I mean).

It's exciting and technically breathtaking - how much more can anyone get out of the Spectrum? Any chance of a version of Zaxxon using the same techniques, Vortex?

Program Princ Supplier

Tornado Low Level £5.95 Spectrum Vortex 280 Brooklands Road Manchester

Micro

Spectrum Compusound 32 Langley Close Redditch Wores B98 0ET

BOOGIE ON DOWN

Quicksilva, despite the wheeling and dealing surrounding them, are still very much in business. Of its most recent batch of releases one of the most unusual is Drum Kit for the BBC



As the title suggests what you get is a program that enables you to use the sound chip on the BBC as a rhythm box and a pretty good one at

You control sounds labelled (reasonably convincingly) snare, bass drum, and a couple of toms, one of which has the authentic da da da dwong, sound beloved of many a pop hit. The program is easy to use, with where the beat will fall, in relation to the other instruments, being illustrated on screen which scrolls as the rhythm is played.

You can change both the nitch and the relative volume of each instrument - constructed rhythms can be saved and loaded m will. It's excellently designed; now all you need la something to play along with it.

Price Micro £9.95 BBCB Quicksilva Palmersion Park House 13 Palmerston Road Southampton Hampshire SO1 ILL

INSTRUCTION IN CODE

There have been various attempts at producing an effective teach yourself machine code program, but the subject has remained as clusive as ever. By far the best attempt comes from New Generation Software who has recentlyissued its Complete Machine Code Tutor for the BBC and the Spectrum.

The package consists of two

New Releases

cassettes and a short booklet although most of the text is actually on the program. There are essentially two elements to the cassettes — 33 lessons covering every instruction the 280 can accept and # screen simulation which illustrates exactly what happens after every instruction and can be considered as a sophisticated one step assembler.



After each section there are a series of exercises — they start easy enough for even me to understand, so all five year olds should find it a doddle. One other good point — unlike all the books I have seen on teach yourself machine code — this does not jump straight in with hex arithmetic which, being far more difficult than everyone always pretends, puts a lot of people off.

Program

Price Micro Supplier The Complete Machine Code Tutor £14.95 Spectrum, BBC New Generation Software 15 Sannybank Lyncombe Vale Bath BA2.4NA

WAHS AND WOOSHES

Star Trooper is the latest release from Melbourne House and is, somewhat surprisingly, not for the Spectrum. It's a high speed ker-pow ker-pow which loads in three minutes using yet another high speed loader. To digress for a moment, with the possible exception of multipart games using more than 64K (of which there are very few), the vast range of turbo games is making the standard Commodore disc drive look pretty silly—only of use to a few business orientated users. Turbo games are loading more or less as fast as on disc for no extra cost on an ordinary tape price.

To get back to Star Trooper, the only thing really to he said is it's simple areade stuff, dodging endless varieties of aliens but still good for all that. What I did like was the extensive music soundtrack that really does make the 64 sound like a synthesizer, being full of the kind of wahs and wooshes that made Vangelis the man is today.

Program Price Micro Supplier Star Trooper £0.95 Commodore 64 Melbourne House Church Yard Tring Hertfordshire HP23 \$1.11

KEEP 'EM PEELED

Mirrorsoft has earned my continuing approval on the strength of the marvellous Caesar the Cat arcade game, but in fact the bulk of its release have been educational programs.

Look Sharp is available on the Commodore 64 — a machine not supplied over abundantly with educational material — and it basically concerns



itself with visual memory and observation. In Old Macdonald's Farm (the first part of the package) the child has to remember a farmyard scene and detect subtle differences between different animals.

The second program is called S.O.R.T. and is basically a hand eye co-ordination exercise—it's educational to about the same degree as Pac Man.

Program Price Micro Soppiler Look Sharp! £7.95 Commodore 64 Mirrorsoft Holborn Circus London EC!

INTERIM REPORT

Speaking as someone who never got over Bakunin's betravby the Trots at the first international congress; as someone who believes that a free state economy would produce cooperation rather than a male hierarchical outmoded concept of competition; and as someone who can only deplore the bastardised mish mash of competing class derived concepts that is the mixed economy in this country, that such an economy should be represented in a computer game can only be considered as further evidence of political apathy amounting to a virtual criminal negligence on the part of software houses in this so-called nation.

Having made these crucial political points, I should add that 1984 which represents the British economy and invites you to play Prime Minister, or collective wealding executive power if you prefer, is excellent —for two main reasons. Firstly it succeeds where other simulations often fail, ie, it is very visual, and secondly, it is complex, you really do have to think about the decisions you make.

Wages, Minimum Lending Rate, Government Investments, taxes, public expenditure, foreign aid and industrial grants are just some of the factors you have to take into account — but this being Britain none of your decisions will be implemented smoothly, numbers of special interests will fight for their corner in glorious conflict with one another. Something for ulcers could be a wise additional purchase if you buy this game.

Program Price Micro Supplier 1984 £6.50 BBC B Incentive Software 54 London Street Reading

NUMBERS INTO PICTURES

Figuro 64 is a sophisticated graphics orientated database for the Commodore machine.



It comes at a sophisticated price too — £75 + VAT which is £86.25 ie a lot.

On the other hand it's a pretty clever program not unlike Easel — the graphics package free with the QI. Basically it will turn data — any collection of numbers — into a graph in any of six different graph formats including line, block and pie. It automatically caters for things like negatives, harmonic means, rounding, etc, and will produce graphs on any Epson or compatible printer.

More than all this it can manipulate your figures in a variety of ways to produce forcasts and various sorts of statistic and all this without being difficult to use. In short, wonderful, but expensive.

Program Price Micro Supplier Figaro 64
£86.25
Commodore 64
Saxon Computing
3 St. Catherines
Drive
Leconfield
Beverley
Humberside

New Releases is designed to let people know what softwere is coming on to the market, if you have a new game or utility which you are about to release send a copy and accompanying details to: New Releases, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13. Little Newport Street, WC2R 3LD.

BBC*		Commodore 64	
1 (3) Fortress 2 (-) Pengi 3 (-) Mr Wiz	(Paca)	1 (4) Beach Head	(Centres
2(-) Pengi	(Visions)	2 (-) Cavalon	(Ocus
3(-) MrV9iz	(Superiorsoft)	3 (9) Revelation	(Soft
# (3) AVIAIO	(Acomsoft)	4 (-) Pinball Wizard	(CP Sultiwa
6 (-) 30 Space Ranger 6 (-) Overdrive	(Microbyte)	STINI Spin Flinks	(Centresi
6(-) Overdrive	(Superiorsoft)	6(-) Savage Pond 7 (-) Heroes of Karn	(Starca)
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9 (-) Trench	(Virgin)	9 (-) Flight Path 737	(Anin
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(-) Business Applicati	ons for Commodore 64, A	W.	(Sunshine)
		(Figures comp	wed by Bookwise)

NOT SNAPPY

Data Handling on the Commodore 64 Made Easy is not what you might call a snappy title but it's a useful book very much in the 'the Commodore 64 really is suitable for use as a business machine honest gov' style which is popular at the moment

It concerns itself with all things to do with the sorting, handling, storage and manipulation of data. This involves topics like use of disc drives, sorting routines, string searching and the like and it's yet another area which is poorly handled in the manual consequently this is a genuinely useful book.

The book is illustrated throughout with a series of diagrams and programs providing a number of useful basic subroutines.

Book Price

Micro

Supplier

the Commodore 64 Made Easy 65.95 Commodore 64 Granada Publishing B Grafton Street London WIX3LA

Data Handling on

COLUMNS

The Adventurer's Notebook is not a book of listings and for the most part contains very little text. What it is, quite simply, is pages and pages of boxes and columns labelled verbs and nouns - the function being to enable people trying to solve adventures to keep sophisticated records of what actions/directions they have tried III each location.

It's a simple idea but I can think of plenty of adventurers who might have use for it as they are trying their fourteenth synonym for unlock and the door is still not budging. It's not all charts - the opening of the book as a fairly good introduction to the subject of adventure and picks out a few of the

Book Price Micro Supplier

The Adventurer's Notebook £3.95 General Duckworth The Old Piano Factory 43 Gloucester Crescent

Program	Туре	Micro	Price	Supplier
Electro Freddy	Arc	Amstred	£4.95	Amsoft
Allen Brook in	Arc	Amstrad	£7.95	Amsoft
Spannerman	Arc	Amstrad	27.96	Amsolt
Storyline	Ed	BBC 8	7.95	Daco
Mystery in the Java				
Sea	Ad	980 8	27.95	Shards
Frac Maths	Ed	BBC B	28.95	Shards
Science 1	Edi	BBC II	26.95	Shards
Wonder Worm	Arc	BBC 8	25.95	Thor
Blocker	Arc	BBC B	25.95	Thos
Pyramid Painter	Arc	BBC 9	€6.95	Thor
Desperate Dan	Arc	BBC B	£5.95	Thor
Alice in Videoland	Arc	Commodore 64	€12.95	Audiogenic
Go Sprite	Uh	Commodore 64	29.95	Mirrorsoft
Monater Matha	Ed	Commodore 64	26.95	Shards
Poker	S	Commodore 64	25.95	Tom Pinon
Graphic 1 V	DI	Commodore 64	19.99	Zipprint
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3D Silicon Fish	Arc	Vic 20	25.95	Thor
Luv Bug	Arc	Vic 20	E5.95	Thor

Key: Ad — adventure/Arc — arcade/Ed — aducation/ S — strategy-simulation/Lit — utility

This Week is a new section that covers all the new software coming on to the home micro market each week. All suppliers should send details of their new programs to: This Week, Popular Computing Weekly, 12-13 Little Newport Street, London WC2R 3LD.

Ziggurat



The tail waggles

In the last couple of weeks there have been a number of articles in the computer press saying things like "The Sinclair QL — has it missed the boat?"

These articles will probably have been written by the same journalists who a few months ago went gaga over a couple of demo machines seen from a couple of hundred feet away and a ropey provisional manual. The new articles tell you, in a hushed dramatic voice, how the journalists has discovered problems in the machine which will lead to the downfall not only of Sinciair Research but probably the entire free world.

This situation reminds me of the plot of a film called No Highway—it starred James Stewart as a plane expert who keeps confideratally predicting that the tail designs of one type of airliner is unsound. This being a plane in service all over the world, he is attacked by till the airlines and almost locked up — and the tail still doesn't tall off. In the movie at the tast minute just before he is carted away, ruined and humiliated, there is a giant crunch and the tail on the test plane he has been wagging by machine hour after hour finally cracks and splits asunder. End of film, scientist vindicated and not a dry eye in the house.

So as I say there are a lot of journalists playing James Stewart. The question is, is

the QL's tail going to fall off or not? The reason for writing this piece is that, in my opinion, whilst there is no question the tail has been waggling — just look at the production delays — I think there is still time for Sinclair to do something about it.

The worrying thing is that Sinclair is trying to pretend that there's nothing wrong and talks confidently of having finalised the design of the Rom when, to even the most friendly observer, the tail is still showing signs of movement.

Let me pick out one thing as a classic example of waggle. Quill. Here I am, a journalist of sorts who spends much of his time writing articles — I ought to be just the sort of professional, rather than business, user the machine is intended for. More than that, I am disposed to like technology, I don't really have to be convinced that using a word processor is a good idea.

I used Quill on a recent if not final version of the QL. It has one big drawback. II you type at anything other than a snail's pace (and I am no expert) you will find that you outpace the rate to which the QL can print what you type to the screen. When writing this is irritating but reasonably harmless. What about when you delete a few words? What happens is that your keypress deletes outpace the screen deletes making you think you have deleted less than is, in fact, the case - consequently you press delete too many times and find large amounts of perfectly acceptable prose disappearing. Whatever Sinclair say, you can't have 'differing viewpoints' about this - it just won't do.

I want to like the QL, its basic price/ specification is immutable and unchangeable: 128K, plus two microdrives (which are at least better than ordinary tape, whatever else), plus goodish resolution graphics with an OK keyboard for £399 represents outstanding value.

I want it to succeed. I can even live with the silly plastic feet that don't fit properly.

But Sinclair has to stop the tail wagging and start producing the QL in volume. And it would be nice to see some more software for it too.

Graham Taylor

In the swim

Puzzle No 113

A sponsored swim by members of the lower third produced results that were, quite frankly, disappointing. To make the totals seem larger than they were the results were announced as follows:

Alison and Ben raised £3.41 between them while Ben and Chris raised £2.87 together. Chris and Derek's total was £2.23 and Derek and Elizabeth managed to raise a combined total of £4.68.



Now, I also happen to know that the total sum raised by Alison, Chris and Elizabeth came to F5.18

Can you say how much each child earned individually?

Solution to Puzzle No 106

We need to find an exact multiple of 11, in which no digit in duplicated and which is "just over a million". Therefore the smallest such number found will be the logical answer. In the program we test each successive multiple (smallest being 9304153 * 11) to see if there are digits in the answer which occur more than once. (Note that, for convenience, we convert the sum to cents—rather than dollars and cents.)

10 LET N = 9304153 20 LETT = N * 11 30 LET T\$ = STR\$(T) 40 FOR W = 1 TO 8 50 FOR X = W + 1 TO 9 50 IF MIDS(TS,W,1) = MIDS(TS,X,1) THEN GOTO 110 70 NEXT X 50 NEXT W 50 PRINT "AMOUNT ON CHEQUE = ",LEFT\$(T\$,7); ".";RIGHT\$(T\$,2) 100 END 110 N = N + 1 120 GOTO 20

Thus the prize amounted to \$1023475.86.

Winner of Puzzle No 108

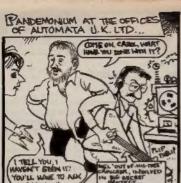
The winner is: G L Godman, Woodfield, Shuthonger, Tewkesbury, Glos., who recleves £10.

Rules

If the puzzle can be sensibly solved using a computer then the winner will have included a listing of the program used to find the correct answer. The closing date for entries to Puzzle No 113 is July 13.

The Hackers





















Ann Dani	T CALL ME BALL!
AND HOW. THE FOURT OF THIS	The state of the state of
JOIN THE	TUST KIDS STUFF!
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